

Mr. Nick Jones
Heritage Tree Services Ltd.
5 The Beeches
Stoke Row
Henley on Thames
RG9 5RB

James Crosbie
Acting Head of Planning,
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Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: 190384/TPO
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 374294
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27th March 2019

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr. Jones,

**REFUSAL OF WORKS & CONSENT FOR LESSER WORKS ON A BEECH TREE AT 35
HIGHMOOR ROAD, CAVERSHAM - PROTECTED WITHIN G1 OF TPO 127/05**

Thank you for your application and report dated 6th March 2019 regarding the above.

You have applied to carry out the following works:

- an entire crown reduction, reducing the height by 2-2.5m and lateral spread by 2-2.5m leaving a well-formed and balanced crown profile.
- Prune to give 1-1.5m clearance to the phone line and prune to give 3-4m clearance to the dwelling.

In your report you have identified that this is a '*Beautiful street scene tree providing wildlife and amenity value*'. In addition you have noted that the tree has a '*large and in proportion spreading crown*' which extends over the neighbouring driveway and in close proximity to the property.

Having viewed the tree on Wednesday 20th March, I agree with your assessment of the condition and amenity value of the tree. Although I understand the proximity of the tree to the residential property may be an issue, I did not note anything which would support an entire crown reduction at this time.

This is a mature Beech with no bark defects or signs of decay. The tree has a twin stem from 2m which although a sub-optimum growth form, is not uncommon on the species. This 'tight' fork with some bark inclusion is currently in a satisfactory condition. I note that some smaller branches above the fork are fusing between the stems and as these fusions establish they will provide further support to the tree branch structure. The tree is showing signs of good vitality with a dense and even bud distribution and rapid growth bark cracks on the trunk and main branches.

The Borough Council would not usually support the full canopy of an otherwise healthy protected tree due to the harm this work will have on the long term health and amenity of the tree. In view of this, your application to carry out an entire canopy reduction of the tree by 2-2.5m has been refused.

Lesser works to provide reasonable clearance between the canopy and the property and to raise the canopy to increase lower light levels and clear the phone lines - are approved subject to the conditions below:

Approved works

Beech (T1 of TPO 127/05)

- Crown lift to give 4-5m above ground level.
- Reduce lower branches on south (dwelling) side of the canopy by 3-4m to give reasonable clearance to the property using suitable reduction points.
- Reduce higher branches on south side by up to 2m as required to create a natural looking canopy outline following the reduction of the lower branches.

Conditions

1. All tree surgery shall be in accordance with BS 3998: (2010) Tree Work - Recommendations.

Reason: To ensure that all works are carried out in an acceptable arboricultural manner

2. Climbing spikes shall not be used whilst undertaking any form of works on living trees, except on trees to be felled.

Reason: Spikes can cause extensive long-term damage

Informatives

1. You are advised that, in accordance with Part 4, 17 (4) of The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012, this decision is valid for one pruning operation (as per the approved specifications) to be undertaken within two years from the date of this notice, after which the consent lapses and a new application will be required.

2. Removal of dead or dangerous wood: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. However written notice must be given 5 working days in advance of removing dead wood. Where a branch is deemed to be 'dangerous', i.e. where works are 'urgently necessary to remove an immediate risk of serious harm', you are required to give notice to the Council 'as soon as practicable after the works become necessary'.

3. Disturbance of wildlife: It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to disturb roosting bats or nesting birds. It is advisable to consult your tree surgeon/consultant to agree an acceptable time for carrying out any work. Wildlife and habitat controls are administered by Natural England who can be contacted on 0300 030 6000

4. It is best to avoid works in the period immediately before or during bud burst and leaf

fall to minimise the effect on the long-term health of the tree

If you wish to appeal against the Council's refusal of consent to undertake a full canopy reduction of the tree, or against any of the conditions attached to the permitted works, please contact the Planning Inspectorate within 28 days of receipt of this letter to obtain the relevant forms:

The Environment Appeals Team
Trees and Hedges
The Planning Inspectorate
Room 3/25, Hawk Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Email: environment.appeals@pins.gsi.gov.uk
Tel: 0303 444 5584

If you suffer any loss or damage as a result of this refusal of consent, you may be entitled to recover compensation from the Council. If you wish to make a claim you must do so within 12 months from the date of this decision (or, if you appeal to the Secretary of State, within 12 months from the date of his decision). Claims should be made in writing to the Insurance Section, Reading Borough Council, Civic Centre, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Duckworth

Sarah Duckworth
Assistant Natural Environment Officer

cc. Mr. Richard Havelock, 35 Highmoor Road, Caversham RG4 7BQ