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Mr N Gunner  
Forest and Garden Timber Services  
Hollow Farm  
Holly Lane  
Worplesdon  
GU3 3PB

Our Ref: 182186/TPO  
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440  
Email: sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

15 January 2019

Your contact is: Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr Gunner

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT MILWARD COURT, WARWICK ROAD, READING -  
SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 24/12.**

Thank you for your application of 10 December 2018, regarding the above.  
Your application sought approval for the following works:

- Lime (T1 of TPO) – remove epicormic growth, lift to above head height, reduce by 2-4m all branches if required to smarten up shape
- T2 Mulberry - as above but without the epicormics growth removal (N/A)
- Ash (non-TPO) – as above
- Acer (T3 of TPO) – as above

Your email of 8 January 2019 indicated that the proposed shaping was to *'pull in any extended limbs that may fail as they are getting too long, which applies to all the mentioned trees'*. Your email also confirmed that the works, as far as ensuring the residents are *'kept safe from harm'* refers to the lower branches which are not above head height, rather than the trees being of particular concern in terms of their health or condition.

The proposed works were discussed during my site meeting of 10 January 2019 with Margaret O'Sullivan and we agreed specific works to each TPO tree. I can confirm that the following proposed works, as agreed on site (amended application), are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the attached photographs:

- T1 Lime – crown lift by removing/reducing secondary and tertiary branches and removing epicormic growth up to a height approx. 1m above the crown break (where the trunk divides); remove one branch overhanging neighbour back to source and reduce one branch overhanging neighbour back to the previous reduction point.
- T2 Mulberry – crown lift to 3m above ground level by removing/reducing secondary and tertiary branches only; reduce one over-extended lateral by 1-2m back to suitable growing points and one branch to indicative point indicated on the attached photograph to remove the dead end section.
- T3 Maple – crown lift to 3m above ground level by removing/reducing minor branches only; remove one small upright branch growing through the crown (as identified on attached photograph).

In relation to the Lime, this appears to have been pollarded in the past and is now multi-stemmed. It would be prudent to investigate the point at which the trunk divides for decay/dysfunction and to recommend any works accordingly.

In relation to the Mulberry, this is a very old specimen hence works need to achieve a balance between addressing the weight of limbs and potential failure against the trees ability to respond favourably to pruning, which is likely to be low.

I understand that there is concern that the non-TPO Ash on the rear boundary may have Ash dieback, hence felling was suggested. Unless the tree poses an unacceptable risk health and safety risk, e.g. from extensive dead branches, felling is not advised. Please refer to the Forestry Commission on-line for the latest advice on management of diseased Ash trees.

### Conditions

1. Five days notice in writing shall be given to the Council prior to undertaking the approved works.

Reason: To ensure that the Local Planning Authority is given sufficient notice of the works to enable the effective monitoring of tree work within the Borough.

2. 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

3. This decision is valid for two years from the date of this notice after which the consent lapses

4. 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. 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'.
2. 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 060 3900; [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)
3. 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
4. Tree work consents on land not owned by the applicant: It is strongly recommended that the owner of the tree be advised of any proposed works. The owner's permission must be sought if the tree works involve work past the boundary line. This consent does not in any way imply that this Council has informed the owner or sought permission or will condone the use of consents to force any landowner to grant such permission.

If you wish to appeal against any of the conditions attached to this consent, please contact the Planning Inspectorate within 28 days of receipt of this letter to obtain the relevant forms:

The Environment Appeals Team, 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](mailto:environment.appeals@pins.gsi.gov.uk)  
Tel: 0117 372 8192

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

Yours sincerely

*Sarah Hanson*

Sarah Hanson  
Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Margaret O'Sullivan, House Manager, Milward Court