



Mr. Jamie King-Fretts
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Our Ref: 182085/TPO
Your Ref:

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18th December 2018

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr. King-Fretts,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO AN ASH TO THE FRONT OF OAKLANDS, BULMERSHE ROAD,
READING - PROTECTED AS TREE 41 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 126/01**

Thank you for your application of dated 21st November 2018 and received on 27th November 2018 regarding the above.

You have applied to fell T41, a mature Ash which forms part of a significant group of trees along the frontage of Oaklands. Having viewed the tree from ground level, I note that the issue you have raised with regards to the tree is in relation to decay around the historic pollard points. The tree has been managed as a pollard in the past and there is clear visible decay present in the topping points at around 8m above ground level.

Although you have applied to fell the tree, this is considered drastic action in response to the defects present and would result in the loss of a high amenity tree. I consider that the risk posed by the tree as a result of the decay around the topping points can be managed satisfactorily by routine and regular re-pollarding of the tree. The base and trunk of the tree appear sound with no audible decay and all pruning cuts on the trunk are fully occluded. The regrowth from the topping points is around 100-130mm diameter and not overly large for re-pollarding. Overall, the indicators are that the tree has good vitality and should respond satisfactorily to another pollard cut.

In view of these considerations, I am writing to confirm to you that your application to fell this tree has been refused. Consent has been granted (below) for lesser works to pollard the tree subject to the following conditions:

Approved work

- T41 Ash – Pollard removing regrowth back to previous reduction points (and not beyond) taking care not to damage the established pollard knuckles.

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. Wherever possible, 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. 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

4. The approved canopy reduction shall be undertaken in mid-late Summer (July – September) when the tree's energy reserves are at their height or during the Winter months of December – January during the period of dormancy.

Reason: Taking into account the tree's phenological cycle and in order to avoid any unnecessary detriment to the tree as a result of the pruning work.

Informatives

1. You are advised that this decision is valid for one pruning operation 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. 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

If you wish to appeal against the Council's refusal of consent to fell 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