

Mr. Brian Woolman,
4 Dellwood Park
Caversham,
Reading
Berkshire
RG4 7NX

Alison Bell
Head of Environment &
Neighbourhood Services
Civic Offices, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

Our Ref: 181278/TPO
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 374294
sarah.duckworth@reading.gov.uk

10th August 2018

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr. Woolman,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO A TURKEY OAK WITHIN THE FRONT GARDEN OF 4 DELLWOOD PARK AND PROTECTED AS T20 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 16/15

Thank you for your application dated 18th July 2018, regarding the above.

On your TPO application form, you have applied to carry out a reduction in the overall size of the Turkey oak at the front of your property as you consider it is becoming too large. As you were not able to specify precisely the extent of the reduction you wished to undertake, it was agreed that we would meet on site to discuss the extent of the tree works.

At our meeting you stated that you wished to carry out a substantial reduction of the tree of approximately 30ft (10m) as you consider that the tree was becoming 'too big'. You raised concerns regarding the size of the tree, shade cast by the tree and the nuisance of seasonal leaf drop.

The tree is a single stem Turkey Oak growing in a prominent position at the front of 4 Dellwood Park. The tree has a broad and well balanced canopy with reasonable clearance to the property of approximately 2m.

The proposed 30ft reduction would remove most of the tree's canopy and constitutes 'topping' the tree, a poor arboricultural practice which creates numerous wounds throughout the canopy causing permanent harm to the health and amenity value of the tree.

For this reason, your application to reduce the tree is refused.

I can confirm that the following lesser works, as discussed on site, are **approved** subject to the conditions below:

Approved Tree Works

- T20 (Turkey Oak) Crown lift outer branch tips by approximately 1.5m to improve lower light levels.

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 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. 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

If you wish to appeal against the Council's decision on this matter or against any conditions attached to the consent for lesser 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 have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Duckworth

Sarah Duckworth
Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer