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Mr D Swallow
168 Waverley Road
Reading
RG30 2PZ

Our Ref: 170760/TPO
Your Ref:

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Email: sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

9 March 2018

Your contact
is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr Swallow

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO SYCAMORE TREES TO THE REAR OF 168 WAVERLEY ROAD,
READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 189/06.**

Thank you for your application of 14 May 2017 in which you requested permission to 'cut back' overhanging branches of 3 Sycamore trees.

During my visit of 16 June 2017 I discussed potential work with Mrs Swallow, given the non-specific nature of your application. My subsequent email of 19 June suggested specific pruning to address the concerns you raised, which included a reduction of the crowns overhanging your rear garden by 2m. You responded to this email on 28 December 2017 and confirmed that you did not consider the suggested works would adequately address your concerns and you sought approval to reduce the crowns back to 2m from the trunks (the trunks being just behind your rear boundary).

As it had then been more than 6 months since my visit and given you were proposing works that were not considered during that visit, I advised that a further visit would be required. Unfortunately you advised that providing access again was not possible other than at weekends or 'out of hours' and suggested that a combination of the photos taken during my visit and assessment from the frontage might be adequate. As advised in my email of 11 January 2018, the angle of photography, i.e. taken looking towards the rear boundary rather than along it or up from it, makes it very difficult to assess the specific work proposed from photos taken in June. Having tried to assess the proposal from the

frontage, a similar problem exists, therefore I am unable to assess your specific proposal and unfortunately you are unable to provide access at a reasonable time/day for me to do this.

Given the above and that no supporting arboricultural information has been provided to demonstrate that the work (over and above that suggested) is required for health and safety reasons, I have no option other than to refuse the reduction of the overhanging branches back to 2m from the trunks.

I can, however, confirm that the following works, as suggested in my email of 19 June 2017, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- Right-hand Sycamore (when viewed from the house) - remove 3 branches; one forked branch, one squirrel damaged branch to the right of this and one lower branch growing to the north (see attached photos). Reduce upper crown overhanging garden by 2m.
- Left-hand Sycamore (when viewed from the house) - reduce crown overhanging garden by 2m ensuring that no more than one third of the foliage of each branch is removed

The right-hand tree has a substantial amount of Ivy on the trunk which is starting to extend into the crown. It would be prudent for this to be severed (removing a 2ft section of Ivy trunk) so this can die off. Ivy, whilst good for wildlife, hides defects in the tree, adds to shading and adds to the 'sail area' of the tree.

As previously mentioned, due to the amount of Ivy, it was not possible to determine the extent of branch damage within the tree (caused by squirrels) hence whether any further works, over and above those above, are required. Please note Informative 1 below.

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

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 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 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

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