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Mr J Kershaw
2 Brackendale Way
Reading
RG6 1DZ

Our Ref: 180617/TPO
Your Ref:

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

9 May 2018

Your contact
is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr Kershaw

**RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE MAPLE TREE AT 2 BRACKENDALE WAY, READING - T1
OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 34/002.**

Thank you for your application of 5 April 2018, regarding the above, with accompanying Arboricultural Report, dated March 2018, from Consulting with Trees Ltd.

As you are aware, our formal pre-application response in 2014 (ref 140926/PREAPP) highlighted potential issues with the tree and advised a climbing inspection and internal decay detection. The Arboricultural Report is a full and detailed report on the condition of the tree, which includes many of the points raised in our pre-application response. The report also provides additional information following a climbing inspection and Resistograph testing. As a result of the full condition survey and testing, the report recommends two options: A – Re-pollard back to the high pollard points or B – fell and replace.

As confirmed in the report, the tree provides amenity value to the locality and contributes to the well treed area. Re-pollarding would significantly reduce that amenity value, result in numerous wounds and potentially be detrimental to the long term health of the tree. However, I note that crown reduction is not considered appropriate and that defects in the tree, along with its location, result in issues with risk management and a limited Safe Useful Life Expectancy. As such, the removal of the tree subject to appropriate replacement planting is reasonable in this case.

I note that a Pin oak or Sweet gum have been suggested as potential replacement species. Whilst I have no strong objections to either, neither is in keeping with the species found in the locality. If you wished to consider alternatives by looking at those found in your area, e.g. Limes (many varieties are available), Silver Birch, Pine, English oak, Maples (many varieties are available), I'm happy to agree a different species. Please refer to condition 4 below and let me know your chosen species prior to planting.

I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- T1 Maple – fell.

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. Following the felling of the tree authorised by this consent, one replacement tree of a minimum 10-12cm girth and 3m in height shall be planted within the rear garden during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest. The species shall be agreed with the Council.

Planting should be carried out in accordance with clause 10 (Planting) of BS 8545:2014 'Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations'

Should the replacement tree be removed, die or become severely damaged or seriously diseased, all within 5 years of planting, it shall be replaced by a tree of a similar size and species to that originally planted. Modifications to the requirements of this condition must be agreed in writing with Reading Borough Council Natural Environment Team.

PLEASE NOTE: The requirement to replant is the responsibility of the tree owner even if the application was submitted by another person.

Reason: To retain the present visual amenity value of the area and ensure continuity of tree coverage

Informatives

1. 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

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