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Mr B McAuliffe
19 Gayhurst Close
Caversham
Reading
RG4 6QW

Our Ref: 180775/TPO
Your Ref:

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

7 June 2018

Your contact
is: Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr McAuliffe

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE OAK TREE AT 19 GAYHURST CLOSE, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 129/06.

Thank you for your application of 10 May 2018, regarding the above.

During my visit on 31 May 2018 we discussed the proposed work and some additions to the proposals. I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application and amended on site, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- T1 Oak – selective branch reduction to provide 1.5m clearance from 19 and 20 Gayhurst Close; crown lift to 2-3m above the ground level of the front lawn and 1m above the ground level of the rear lawn by reducing/removing secondary branches only.

During my visit we discussed the proposed removal of dead wood. It is reasonable to remove dead wood and branches where they pose a potential hazard, e.g. if they are hanging over your or your neighbour's garden. However, dead wood, in a veteran/ancient tree such as your Oak is extremely important in providing a habitat for numerous species, some of which are specific to ancient trees. The removal/reduction of the central dead wood (from previous main stem removal) should be avoided unless it becomes a risk, which would not appear to currently be the case.

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.

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