

Supporting Statement

On 17th February 2016 planning application 150721 was approved for a property at 114 Oxford Road, Reading.

Within the churchyard of the neighbouring property is a Robinia Pseudoacacia with a TPO attached. The tree is close to the boundary and therefore Condition 17 was attached to the planning application to ensure the tree was protected.

Condition 17 required an Arboricultural Method Statement to be prepared and approved prior to any development taking place. This was duly submitted and approved under application 171798. Included within the Method Statement were proposals to raise the crown of the TPO tree (see page 4) to the east of the tree only (that part of the tree that overhangs the proposed development site).

Having been in contact with Mr Ron Cutting, the Church warden, to get permission to carry out the approved works, he also requested if the crown on the Church's side could also be raised.

This application seeks to gain consent for the raising of the crown all around the tree to help balance the tree, up to 5.5m in height.

The request from the Church has come fairly late in the day and we have booked in a tree surgeon to carry out the work w/c 19th March. I understand the normal determination process takes 8 weeks, but wondered that since the work to half the tree has already been approved, and to help balance up the tree, if this application might be fast tracked a little to help us achieve this date.