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Mr S Arnold
Tree Solutions Arboriculture Ltd
23 Springdale
Finchampstead
Wokingham
RG40 4RZ

Our Ref: 180521/TPO
Your Ref:

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

30 April 2018

Your contact
is: Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr Arnold

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT UPCROSS GARDENS, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 69/14.

Thank you for your application of 19 March 2018, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 20 April 2018, I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the attached photographs:

- Horse chestnut (T1 of application; T5 of TPO) – crown clean by removing dead wood and crossing/rubbing branches (note condition 5 below); crown lift to 4.5m above ground level by removing secondary and tertiary branches.
- Tree of Heaven (T2 of application; T10 of TPO) - crown clean by removing dead wood and crossing/rubbing branches (note condition 5 below); crown lift to 4.5m above ground level by removing secondary and tertiary branches; selective branch reduction to provide 2m clearance from the building
- Hornbeam (T4 of application; T1 of TPO) - crown clean by removing dead wood and crossing/rubbing branches (note condition 5 below); crown lift to 5.5m above ground level by removing secondary and tertiary branches (note informative 5 below)
- Sycamore group (G4 of application; G1 of TPO) – removal of 5 Sycamore; selective lateral reduction of remaining trees by approx. 1.5m. (re-approval of 140636/TPO)

T3 Tree of Heaven included in your application is not subject to the Tree Preservation Order therefore approval for works to this tree are not required. It was noted during my visit that work had already been carried out on this tree.

It was also noted during my visit that the large stump on the rear boundary has regrowth, some of which has collapsed into the soft landscape bed. It would be prudent to remove the remaining regrowth given the poor condition of the stump to avoid collapse onto the lawn. In addition, the 'new' nearby tree in the lawn is dead – it would be beneficial to remove this and replace it with a suitable tree.

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

5. Crown cleaning should not include the removal of fused natural braces (branches or stems), or the removal of entwining branches or rubbing branches (where they may be forming a natural brace) from the crown of a semi-mature to fully mature tree without carrying out an assessment of any junctions formed below such natural braces.

Reason: Removal of natural braces may lead to failure of weak unions.

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.

5. It is noted that the Hornbeam (T4 of application; T1 of TPO) is a lapsed pollard. The Council would be sympathetic to a suitable crown reduction should this be subject to a formal tree works application.

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