

Mrs. S. Shaw
11 Kearsley Road
Reading
Berkshire
RG30 2EA

Alison Bell
Head of Environment &
Neighbourhood Services

Civic Offices, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

Our Ref: 171204/TPO
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 374294
sarah.duckworth@reading.gov.uk

30th August 2017

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mrs Shaw,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO T1 (LONDON PLANE) OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 30/11
ON LAND ADJACENT TO 11 KEARSLEY ROAD, READING RG30 2EA**

Thank you for your application of 18th July 2017, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 2nd August 2017 and our telephone conversation this morning I am writing to confirm that your application to carry out a 25% reduction and 15% crown thin to the London Plane (T1 of TPO 30/11) has been refused.

The Borough Council has viewed the tree and found it to be a healthy specimen with a low canopy which is currently in direct contact with the adjacent garage block. The proposed work to undertake a 25% reduction of the tree's canopy is considered to be major pruning works which will affect the long term health and vitality of a protected tree.

It is likely that the tree would put on prolific regrowth in response to this reduction work making the shading from the tree worse in the long term. Further reductions would also be required in order to prevent branch failure as the regenerating branches would have a weaker attachment to the parent branch. The ongoing pruning work would be detrimental to the amenity of the tree.

The British Standard 3998 'Tree Work Recommendations' advises that '*Due to its potentially negative effects, crown reduction should not usually be carried out in addition to other crown pruning operations which would add to the amount of wounding and leaf loss.*' The additional thin of 15% would have no long term benefit to the overall light issue in relation to your property but would cause considerable additional harm to the tree from the loss of twigs and foliage cover. Crown thins can also change the oscillation of branches in high winds and increase the incidence of branch and twig breakage.

For these reasons, your application has been refused.

As we discussed on the phone, I can confirm that the following lesser pruning works, have been identified and are approved by the Borough Council subject to the conditions below:

Approved works

T1 (London Plane)

- Reduce extended lateral branches over the garden of 11 Kearsley Road by 1-2m using suitable reduction points to leave a natural looking canopy outline.
- Crown lift outer branch tips to give up to 5m clearance from ground level in order to improve lower light levels into the property and clear the adjacent garage blocks. This pruning work is to lift the secondary and tertiary branches and branch tips only without pruning any of the principal branch structure of the tree. Pruning cuts should not exceed 50mm diameter.

Conditions

1. All permitted tree surgery operations shall be undertaken only once and in accordance with BS 3998: (2010) Tree Work - Recommendations.

Reason: To ensure that all works are carried out in an acceptable arboricultural manner

2. 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. 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 030 6000.

2. 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 of sought permission or will condone the use of consents to force any landowner to grant such permission.

3. You are advised that this decision is valid for two years from the date of this notice after which the consent lapses and a new application will be required.

If you wish to appeal against the refusal or your application or against any of the conditions attached to this modified 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 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 require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Duckworth

Sarah Duckworth
Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer

cc. Kevin Lee, Tree Officer, Parks Team, Reading Borough Council