

Mr B Batty
Koi Corner
8 Wetherby Close
Emmer Green
Reading
RG4 8UD

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

Our Ref: 172243/TPO
Your Ref:

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

18 December 2017

Your contact is: Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr Batty

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE ASH TREE AT 8 WETHERBY CLOSE, READING - T3 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 123/01.

Thank you for your application of 4 December 2017, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 8 December 2017, I have the following comments:

Your application seeks approval to reduce the height of the tree and remove 3 branches. We discussed on site that height reductions are not normally approved unless there are sound arboricultural reasons for the works, as it has a detrimental impact on the amenity value of the tree – the height being the primary factor in making the tree visible from surrounding properties and the public highway. In addition, any tree work should be supported by sound reasons to avoid unnecessary wounding of the tree. As no arboricultural reasons could be provided to justify the work, the height reduction is refused.

In relation to the branches, we discussed only two branches on site those being one southerly, long lateral branch growing towards to pond and house and one south-westerly, low branch growing over the garden and towards the house (both indicated on the attached photographs). The removal of these branches would not be acceptable due to the wound size that would be produced and it was agreed that your concerns could be addressed by reducing those branches instead.

I can confirm, therefore, that the following proposed works are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the attached photographs:

- Reduction of one southerly branch growing towards the pond and house by 40-50% in length as indicated
- Reduction of one low south-west branch growing over garden towards house to the multiple points indicated.

As promised, please find attached advice on choosing a tree surgeon and a list of those local companies approved by the Arboricultural Association.

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 or against the Council's refusal of consent to allow a height reduction, 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 Hanson
Natural Environment Officer