

Mrs Sue Tanner
Opus Tree Care
70 Urquhart Road
Thatcham
Berkshire
RG19 4RT

Alison Bell
Director of Environment &
Neighbourhood Services
Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

Our Ref: 171069/TPO

Direct: ☎01189 372440
sarah.duckworth@reading.gov.uk

10th August 2017

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mrs Tanner,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES ON LAND AT GORDON PALMER COURT, BROCK GARDENS - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 138/05

Thank you for your application dated 19th June 2017 regarding the above.

Following your pre-application consultation with my colleague Sarah Hanson, you applied to carry out the following work to three trees on land to the rear of Gordon Palmer Court which are subject to Tree Preservation Order 138/07.

- T5 - Plane fell to ground level (retrospective) following the failure of a major branch fork.
- T6 Plane - Pollard to points as shown in black marker on your supporting photographs.
- T7 Plane - Crown lift by removing the five lowest branches back to the main trunk

The proposed works to T5 and T7 are considered acceptable. However with regards to your application to prune T6, the Borough Council would not support a reduction of the tree greater than that previously suggested by my colleague Sarah Hanson.

It is felt that on balance the points indicated by Sarah Hanson relate to the maximum reduction which could be undertaken to the tree whilst retaining some canopy structure and amenity value from the tree when viewed from outside the property.

A lesser reduction, (pruning higher up the tree) will also leave smaller pruning cuts. This limits the entry points for decay pathogens and opportunity for decay pockets to develop as the tree matures. I can reassure you that the reduction Sarah indicated in red is still a substantial canopy reduction. Reducing the tree in this way will greatly reduce the wind loading on the branches and likelihood of failure of the main branch forks than with a full canopy provided the tree continues to be maintained in a reduced form.

In view of the above considerations, I can confirm that the following proposed work which includes a revised work schedule of a lesser reduction to T6 is approved subject to the conditions below:

Approved works

- T5 - Plane fell to ground level (retrospective) following the failure of a major branch fork.
- T6 Plane - Pollard to points as shown with a red line in the attached supporting photographs.
- T7 Plane - Crown lift by removing the five lowest branches back to the main trunk

Conditions

1. Where possible, permitted 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

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

3. Following the felling of the tree authorised by this consent, 1 No. London Plane tree (*Platanus x hispanica*) of a minimum 10-12cm girth and 3m in height shall be planted within a 5m radius of the felled tree during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest..

Planting should be carried out in accordance with clause 10 (Planting) of BS 8545:2014 'Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations'

Should the replacement tree be removed, die or become severely damaged or seriously diseased, all within 5 years of planting, it shall be replaced by a tree of a similar size and species to that originally planted. Modifications to the requirements of this condition must be agreed in writing with Reading Borough Council Natural Environment Team.

PLEASE NOTE: The requirement to replant is the responsibility of the tree owner even if the application was submitted by another person.

Reason: To retain the present visual amenity value of the area and ensure continuity of tree coverage.

Informatives

1. 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.

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 030 6000

If you wish to appeal against the refusal of consent for a greater reduction to T6 or 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, Trees and Hedges, 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: 0303 444 5584

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
Assistant Natural Environment Officer

cc. Mr Mark Sheppard, Housing Care 21, Gordon Palmer Court, Brock Gardens, RG30 1EY