



Mr J Plows
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4 August 2017

Your contact
is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr Plows

RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE OAK TREE AT 30 CARLTON ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 46/003.

Thank you for your application of 1 August 2017, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 1 August 2017, I have the following comments:

The condition of the crown of the tree is very poor, being predominantly dead, with only a few, small areas of live foliage. The reason for this is not clear as no fungal brackets were present, albeit you advised that your wife may have removed some fungal growth from one of the large roots.

As you are aware, I have visited your property on at least two prior occasions to assess proposed tree works. An overall reduction, back to previous points, along with a crown clean was approved in 2013 and a 20% crown thin was approved in 2015. On both occasions, the tree appeared in good health with vigorous growth forming the contained crown. I understand that the works approved in October 2015 were carried out around Christmas time and that the tree came into leaf in 2016, the decline only being apparent this year with limited foliage.

As discussed on site, mature trees have limited energy reserves hence tree works always run the risk of the tree not responding positively. It may be that the last works tipped

the balance and the tree, whilst coming out into leaf in 2016, did not obtain sufficient energy during the spring and summer, to fully recover from the works and come out into leaf this leaf.

As you are aware, I asked for information about lawn maintenance as your lawn is very well grassed and green which is not often the case under mature Oaks. We have had instances where the lawn treatment has affected the health of trees so your response may have offered a potential contributory factor to the tree's decline. You advised that maintenance involved feeding the lawn in spring and autumn and that there had been no change to this in the last 2 years. Fertilizer should, in theory, be a good thing however, following application, the nutrients in spring may have promoted shoot, leaf and root growth which couldn't be maintained by the tree once the elements had been exhausted. This can then result in dieback / death of roots and shoots.

I don't expect we could confirm the reason without a full soil analysis and/or internal investigations of the tree and its roots.

I can confirm that the following proposed work, as detailed in your application, is approved subject to the conditions below:

- Oak (T4 of TPO 46/03) – fell due to poor condition

We discussed replacement planting in the rear garden and you indicated a location on the north boundary within the planting bed where an existing (poor condition) Prunus is to be removed. In terms of species we discussed the use of species/varieties with a limited spread to ensure it is suitable for the location. You could consider any of the following, however I'm happy consider any suggestions you may have:

- Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) – upright forms are available such as *A.campestre* 'Elsrijk', *A.campestre* 'Streetwise' and *A.campestre* 'William Caldwell'
- Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) – upright forms include *A.platanoides* 'Columnare', *A.platanoides* 'Crimson Sentry' and *A.platanoides* 'Princeton Gold'
- Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) – various upright forms are available, the best appears to be *B.pendula* 'Tristis'
- Common oak (*Quercus robur*) – upright form (max 3m spread) is *Quercus robur* 'fastigiata Koster'
- Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) – upright forms include *S.aucuparia* 'Sheerwater Seedling' and *S.aucuparia* 'Streetwise'.
- Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*) – upright form such as *Tilia cordata* 'Winter Orange'

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. Following the felling of the tree authorised by this consent, one tree of a minimum 10-12cm girth and 3m in height shall be planted within the rear garden during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest. The species shall be agreed with the Council.

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. 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

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
Natural Environment Officer