

Ms Lynn Underwood
8A Wardle Avenue
Tilehurst
Reading
Berkshire
RG31 6JR

Alison Bell
Director of Environment and
Neighbourhood Services
Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: 162115/TPO
Your Ref:

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

14th December 2016

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning & Building Control

Dear Ms Underwood,

**APPLICATION FOR WORKS TO AN ASH ON LAND TO THE REAR OF 8A WARDLE AVENUE
AND SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 22/12.**

Thank you for your application to fell the protected Ash to the rear of your property which was received by us on 10th November 2016.

You have applied to fell an Ash Tree (within G1) in order to address the concerns of your neighbour, Mr Sennet about the tree and following consultation with a tree surgeon who advised that the tree has died.

When I visited your property I noticed that these are fairly poor form trees along your rear boundary however they are the remnants of a previously much denser boundary tree belt and as such it is important that every effort is made to retain the few remaining trees in this area. With that in mind, having viewed the trees from your garden where they are prolifically ivy clad, I then went to view the trees from the rear garden of the neighbouring property in Westwood Road.

At this point I have seen nothing to suggest that the tree is imminently hazardous such as would be required to support the removal of the tree at this time. There are new buds throughout most of the tree's canopy which would not be seen if the tree was dead.

In view of this, I am writing to advise you that your application to fell the tree is refused as there is insufficient information submitted to demonstrate the tree is dead or dangerous at this time.

However I have also observed some potential problems with the tree - notably large pieces of deadwood in the canopy, an asymmetrical canopy form (which will have grown in competition with the adjacent trees which have since been removed) and possible small decay pocket from previous branch failure / removal(s).

The prolific ivy currently prevents a full inspection of the tree trunk and unions. I would therefore recommend that you arrange for the ivy to be severed (using hand tools taking care not to damage the tree bark) and deadwood to be removed over your neighbour's property. This work is exempt under the TPO and you do not need to apply for permission from the Borough Council.

The severing of the ivy will allow for a full inspection of the tree to be undertaken and any further essential health and safety works to be identified which may be approved if appropriate under a new Tree Preservation Order application. Please contact me if you require any further information on this matter.

If you wish to appeal against the Council's decision on this matter, 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
Assistant Natural Environment Officer

cc. Mr Sennet, 164 Westwood Road, Tilehurst RG31 6LN