

Mr Darren Plummer
16 Lowfield Road
Caversham
Reading
Berkshire
RG4 6PA

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

Our Ref: 161726/TPO
Your Ref:

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

19th October 2016

Your contact is: Sarah Duckworth, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr Plummer,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO A NORWAY MAPLE AT 16 LOWFIELD ROAD - PROTECTED AS T2 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 61/01

Thank you for your application of 13th September 2016 regarding the above and for taking the time to meet me at your property to discuss the proposed works on 13th October 2016.

In your application, you have applied for consent to pollard a protected tree. From my site visit I have noted that T2 is a large and healthy Norway Maple. There is no evidence that the tree has been heavily reduced or pollarded in the past such as would make a further reduction appropriate on the tree at this time.

A heavy reduction on a previously unpollarded tree would create numerous large pruning cuts throughout the tree which would act as potential entry points for decay pathogens. Following such work the tree would require regular pruning works to prevent branch failure as any regenerative growth will have a weaker attachment to the parent branch. The reduced canopy of the tree would be less visible as a back drop to houses from the adjacent public highway, as such it might not have the wider public amenity value required following the pruning works to merit inclusion in a Tree Preservation Order.

In view of the above considerations, I have concluded that your application to pollard T2 (Norway Maple) of TPO 61/01 would be harmful to the amenity and long term health of this tree and your application is refused.

However, I recognise that this tree does is close to your property and dominates much of your and your neighbours gardens. In view of this, as we agreed on site, the Borough Council has approved lesser works which may be undertaken to the tree subject to the conditions below:

Approved Works;

- Crown-lift secondary branches to give 4m clearance from ground level to increase lower light levels.
- Reduce canopy (radius) by 1.5m to restrict spread of branches over the garden area.

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. 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. 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 030 6000

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.

4. 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 and of the conditions imposed for this consent or against the Council's refusal of consent to pollard the tree, 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