



Mrs A Spruyt
21 Russet Glade
Emmer Green
Reading
RG4 8UJ

Emma Gee
Acting Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
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Our Ref: 240724/TPO
Your Ref:

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17 June 2024

Your contact
is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mrs Spruyt

**RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE ASH TREE AT 21 RUSSET GLADE, READING - T5 OF
TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 17/002.**

Thank you for your application of 4 June 2024 regarding the above.

Your application sought approval for:

- *Large Ash tree to towards the back right of the garden. The canopy has been shrinking over the past two years. This year it appears very sparse. I think it may have Ash die back. The tree is very large with long main branches. Requesting to fell the tree and plant a replacement tree if advised to do so by the council.*

During my visit of 13 June 2024, a ground inspection of the tree was undertaken (visual only). No evident fungal brackets were present, and the main focus was on the condition of the crown, given the concerns raised in your application. Following your query of 17 June seeking confirmation of my visit, I advised you of my thoughts in my email of 17 June as follows:

'By coincidence, I visited 3 Ash trees on Thursday; the other owners having similar concerns to you. It was actually useful as a comparison for me to see and your tree looked in noticeably better condition compared to the other two. Comparably, the crown of your Ash did not look sparse and the foliage present looked in good condition. I appreciate that it's possible the crown has become less dense over the last few years, as indicated in your application, but it doesn't appear in such bad condition that felling is currently justified. When looking at suspected Ash dieback cases (specific symptoms have

not been noted with your tree), I am mindful of Government advice which is to retain the tree unless it is unsafe to do so - there is nothing in your application to indicate the tree has become unsafe. There is minor dead wood present but that could be removed. Government advice can be found here: [Ash dieback \(Hymenoscyphus fraxineus\) - Forest Research](#) - see in particular 'management & control'.

In my email I sought clarification of whether you wished to add any additional information in support of your application to fell. You confirmed by return on the same date that you had nothing to add to the application and are happy to keep the tree.

You advised of your concern if the large branches from the trunk fell onto your or neighbouring property and felt it diligent to act before this, as you had noticed a drop in the amount of leaves over the past couple of years. You confirmed that the application this year can be point of reference going forward, and that you'll continue to monitor the tree and raise another planning request if you feel it's needed.

You are, of course, free to seek independent professional advice should your concerns continue and/or to support for any future application, be that for pruning or felling.

In conclusion, the proposed felling of T5 Ash is refused. 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:

Trees and Hedges, Room 3A Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay Bristol , BS1 6PN

Telephone: 0303 444 5000

E-mail it to: treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Website: [Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas)

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

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer

