



Mr Stephen Arnold
Tree Solutions Arboriculture
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Emma Gee
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14th March 2024

Your contact is: **Andrei Nazare, Planning, Transport & Public Protection**

Dear Mr Arnold,

RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE SILVER BIRCH TREE AT 3 DELLWOOD PARK, READING - T17 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 16/15.

Thank you for your application of 28th February 2024, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 7th March 2024, I can confirm that the following proposed works are approved subject to the conditions below:

- 1x Silver Birch tree - fell to ground

The reason for felling stated on the application form is the tree is dying and shows only approximately 20% residual (live) foliage left. During my visit I was able to corroborate this, as the tree presents more than half of the lower crown as dead branches, with live branches present only at the very top. This is evident even now, outside of the vegetative (leaf) season, as some of the dead branches have been so for a long while and are bare and brittle. A standing dead trunk of another Birch nearby is testament that these trees do not do well at this location and is likely the protected Birch tree will follow suit (die). Therefore, the proposed felling is agreeable - please note condition 3 below on replacement.

I discussed with Mr and Mrs McConnell about the duty to replant which would follow the felling of the tree, if approved. They showed me an Oak sapling which has been planted a few years back near the Birch tree as possible replacement. I pointed out that it does not meet the size criteria for a replacement tree so we wouldn't be able to consider it, and it is also of poor form. In addition, if they wish to retain and nurture it, I advised them to improve the growing conditions of this Oak sapling by removing the compost bin stored next to it and to lay a layer of mulch around it (1m radius and approximately 70mm deep).

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. Following the felling of the Silver Birch tree authorised by this consent, one broadleaved tree a minimum of 10-12 cm girth and 2.75m tall (at the time of planting) shall be planted in the rear garden of 3 Dellwood Park, the species of which shall be agreed with the Natural Environment Team prior to purchase and planting.

The tree shall be planted as close as possible to the removed trees' location, in order to replace the lost amenity, 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, in accordance with Part 4, 17 (4) of The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012, this decision is valid for one pruning operation (as per the approved specifications) to be undertaken within two years from the date of this notice, after which the consent lapses and a new application will be required.

2. Removal of dead or dangerous wood: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. However written notice is encouraged, 5 working days in advance of removing dead wood in order that we are aware of such works. 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' or in any other case, at least five working days prior to the date on which the works are to be commenced.

3. 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 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:

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

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely,

Andrei Nazare

Andrei Nazare
Assistant Natural Environment Officer
On behalf of Sarah Hanson, Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Mr I McConnell (via e-mail)