



Mrs S Sinclair
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Tilehurst
Reading
RG31 6UZ

Emma Gee
Acting Executive Director for
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Our Ref: PL/24/1076
Your Ref:

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23 August 2024

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mrs Sinclair

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT 11 FERNDAL CLOSE, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 117/06.

Thank you for your application of 19 August 2024, regarding the above.

Further to our meeting of 22 August 2024, I have the following comments:

Your application seeks consent for the felling of T7 Lawson cypress due to a lean and potential risk to the adjacent highway. It was noted that this multi-stemmed tree has a significant lean, there being a noticeable difference when compared to the last Google Street view image of the tree (2012). The tree is covered in an excessive amount of Ivy, which forms, effectively, the majority of the 'crown' now. It is unclear how much the tree would be leaning without this, but it inevitably adds weight to the crown and will be a contributory factor. In any case, it is clear that under the Ivy the crown of the tree is sparse and there is dieback at the top. The felling is considered reasonable.

Whilst on site, we discussed other trees, namely T2 Maple, T4 Cherry and T6 Cypress.

In relation to T2 Maple, this is a twin-stemmed tree with half the tree now being dead, and significant decay at the base of the conjoined trunk. The felling of this tree is deemed reasonable and hence this has been added to your application, as agreed.

In relation to T6 Cypress, the crown is in close proximity to the front corner of the dwelling and as such pruning to provide clearance is considered reasonable and has been added to your application, as agreed.

In relation to T4 Cherry, this is in relatively poor condition with a thin crown and extensive dead wood throughout. It was agreed that works would be confined to the removal of dead wood for now, with a reassessment of the tree's condition next year. Removal of dead wood does not require formal approval - the intention to carry out this work is noted.

Decision

I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application (as amended), are approved subject to the conditions below:

- T2 Japanese maple - fell,
- T6 Lawson cypress - prune to provide 0.5m clearance from the dwelling,
- T7 Lawson cypress - fell.

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

4. Following the felling of the two trees authorised by this consent, two replacement trees of a minimum 8-10cm girth and 2.75m in height (at the time of planting) shall be planted within the front or side 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 Natural Environment Team prior to purchase and planting.

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 from a live tree: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. However you are encouraged to give 5 working days in advance of removing dead wood. 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'.
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
4. Crown lifting of trees over the footpath and carriageway: If the clearance of vegetation overhanging the highway only involves the removal of branches to give a ground clearance to the statutory heights of 2.7m over the footpath and 5.5m over the road, this does not require formal consent from the Council. You are advised, however, to give notice to the Council of these intended works in order that they can be agreed.

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

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

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