



Mrs S Sale
39 Conisboro Avenue
Caversham
Reading
RG4 7JF

Emma Gee
Acting Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
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Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
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Our Ref: PL/24/1454
Your Ref:

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sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

4 December 2024

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mrs Sale

RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE ASPEN AT 39 CONISBORO AVENUE, READING - T10 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 48/06.

Thank you for your application of 31 October 2024 regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 22 November 2024, when I discussed the application with Mr Sale, I have the following comments:

The site of the recent significant branch failure was noted, alongside dead wood throughout the crown. The relatively weak wood of this species, combined with the failure and declining condition of the crown justifies felling as the tree is considered to present too high a risk to surrounding people and property.

Whilst on site, we also discussed the Cedar in the rear garden and Pine in the front garden, identifying reasonable works to these to help provide clearance from the house and above ground level. These works have been added to your application.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application (as amended on site), are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated photographs below:

- T10 Aspen - fell,
- T1 Cedar - remove lowest branch above gazebo and selective branch reduction to provide 2m clearance from the house,
- T7 Bhutan pine - remove one low branch and crown lift the remaining branches to provide 3-4m clearance above ground level.

T1 Cedar:



Reduce branches to give 2m clearance from property & remove one low branch

T7 Pine:



Remove one main branch (red arrow) and dead stub (blue arrow)

As advised on site, requiring a replacement tree when one is felled is normal procedure in order to avoid canopy cover loss, which would be contrary to the aims of our adopted Tree Strategy. Ideally the replacement would be in a similar location to the Poplar to contribute to the street scene, albeit this would have to be a more narrow form of tree to avoid the overhead wires. After my visit, Mr Sale contacted me to ask if the replacement could, instead, be planted in the rear garden as it was felt that more space was available. Following receipt of photographs on 4 December, as requested, of the proposed location, I can confirm that this is acceptable.

In terms of species, I am open to suggestions, but it should be of a similar ultimate size to the Aspen. I understand that another evergreen (conifer) is desired to retain the predominantly evergreen nature of tree coverage at the property. Ideally a native conifer would be chosen in order to also provide wildlife value, however there are only 3 native conifers and in terms of ultimate height, the choice is limited to *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots pine), which would be acceptable. I have left the replanting condition open for further discussion and agreement on species.

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 tree authorised by this consent, one replacement tree of a minimum 8-10cm girth and 2.75m high if deciduous or minimum 2m in height if coniferous (at time of planting) shall be planted within the curtilage of the property 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 Council 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/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas)

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