



Mrs J Alexander
1 Kidmore Court
Hunters Chase
Caversham
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RG4 7XL

Emma Gee
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Our Ref: PL/24/1471
Your Ref:

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16 December 2024

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mrs Alexander

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE OAK TREE AT 1 KIDMORE COURT, READING - T6660 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 333.

Thank you for your application of 1 November 2024 regarding the above. Your application stated the following:

'The large oak tree with TPO number 333 that is on the pavement outside 1 Kidmore Court. We would like to have the tree pruned (i think this would include a crown clean and crown thin) to reduce the overhang over our drive which blocks light to the front of our house, especially our daughter's bedroom. A similar prune was approved and carried out in 2010 and there has been significant growth in the 14 years since this'.

Further to my visit on 22 November 2024, I have the following comments:

As per your application form, the tree was last pruned in 2010, following approval 10/00908/WTP0. This included pruning to provide 3m clearance from the house, a crown clean and canopy thin by 10-15%.

In relation to the pruning to provide clearance from the house, 3m would effectively be to the back edge (closest to the road) of the hard surfacing in front of the house and would be a significant amount of foliage producing area on that side. Where the majority of leaf area is nearer to the ends of the branches, care needs to be taken not to remove too much of this. As discussed, a 2m clearance would be a more reasonable balance to achieve better clearance whilst limiting the harm to the tree.

In relation to the crown/canopy thinning, I explained the issue with this in that it tends to result in multiple regrowth, making the crown denser in the long-term and can increase wind turbulence in the crown, making branch breakage more likely. Crown cleaning is

acceptable and effectively equates to a minor crown thin, but focuses on removal of the poorer branches (see specification below).

Whilst on site, it was noted that some minor branches are low over the pavement and road. As advised, you are required to keep branches to the statutory heights of 2.75m over the pavement and 5.5m over the road, hence pruning to achieve this can be carried out without formal approval but should follow good arboricultural practice and be the minimum required to achieve the required heights. I have included it in the works below anyway so that the pruning specification discussed is confirmed as it may equate to more than 2.75m above the pavement.

In conclusion, the proposed branch reduction to provide 3m clearance from the house and the 10-15% crown thin is refused, however lesser and similar works are approved.

I can confirm that the following proposed works are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated photographs below:

- Oak (T6660) - selective branch reduction to provide 2m clearance from the nearest elevation of the house; crown clean, i.e. remove dead, dying, low vigour, crossing/rubbing branches (this should equate to a very minor thin only); crown lift over Hunters Chase to provide approximately 3m clearance above the pavement by removing low epicormic growth, and reduce / remove secondary and tertiary growth only above the road to provide 5.5m clearance.



Lower epicormic growth to be removed

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. Crown cleaning should not include the removal of fused natural braces (branches or stems), or the removal of entwining branches or rubbing branches (where they may be forming a natural brace) from the crown of a semi-mature to fully mature tree without carrying out an assessment of any junctions formed below such natural braces.

Reason: Removal of natural braces may lead to failure of weak unions.

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. 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

5. 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 the refused works stated in this letter or against any of the conditions attached to the consented works, 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/government/topics/trees-and-woodland/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas)

If you suffer any loss or damage as a result of the refusal of consent for the specified works, 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