

PLANNING REF : 251088
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 30
: 30 Henley Wood Earley, Reading, Berkshire
: RG6 7EE
SUBMITTED BY : Ms Tamzin Morphy
DATE SUBMITTED : 08/05/2025

COMMENTS:

Formal Comment on Application No. 251088 - Tree Works at 30 Henley Wood Road

Dear Planning Officer,

I am writing in response to Planning Application No. 251088 regarding proposed works to two mature Ash trees located at 30 Henley Wood Road, which I own. I wish to raise serious concerns about this application, which contains several inaccuracies, exaggerated claims, and misleading justifications.

First and foremost, I was not consulted in advance about this application, nor did I consent to the proposed works. The trees are on my land and are protected under TPO-1614-2017. The applicant submitted this application unilaterally, with no attempt at prior dialogue beyond a brief and reactive exchange once the process was already underway.

The claim that the trees have not been pruned in over a decade is demonstrably false. They were last professionally pruned on 1 February 2016, and I have receipts and photographic records to verify this. At that time, the arborist's professional advice was that further intervention could be detrimental to the trees' health and stability.

The application frames aesthetic and convenience-based reasons such as grass not growing well or the desire for more light under the guise of safety concerns. While I take safety seriously, the incidents described (e.g. gazebo damage) have not been raised with me previously, and there is no independent arboricultural report to support the proposed 20% crown reduction or other works.

Given the age and maturity of these trees (over 70 years old), I have commissioned an updated survey by an independent tree consultant the same individual who contributed to the National Tree Safety Group's Common Sense Risk Management of Trees guidance. This assessment is scheduled for 15 May 2025, and I intend to submit a balanced, evidence-based proposal in accordance with its findings.

The independent assessment will be carried out by:

Alex Needs BA (Hons) MICFor (Chartered) RArborA MArborA
Director & Principal Consultant
Holt Arboriculture - Tree Consultancy
Tel: 01252 280256 / 07886 653388
Email: alex@holtarb.co.uk
Website: www.holtarb.co.uk
Holt Arboriculture Limited - Reg No.: 15381003

I therefore respectfully request that the council delays any decision on this application until this survey is completed and can be considered. These trees are not only ecologically important and structurally sound but also potentially genetically significant, as they show no signs of ash dieback.

Finally, I will be submitting this formal comment along with an email trail documenting my communications and position on this matter to ensure a full and accurate context is available.

Thank you for your attention to this serious concern. I am committed to working constructively with the council to ensure responsible and proportionate tree management.

Kind regards,
Tamzin Morphy
Owner, 30 Henley Wood Road
Email: tmorphy@yahoo.co.uk
Phone: 07900 902097

Email trail with neighbour.

Dear Steve,
Thank you for your email. I realise I responded quite quickly before, and I'd like to take a moment to clarify my perspective more thoughtfully.

The Ash trees are extremely important to me not only for their ecological value and the habitat they provide, but also because they were one of the main reasons I fell in love with this property when I purchased it in 2011. These mature trees have stood for over 70 years, and I feel a strong responsibility to protect them.

My initial response was emotional, partly because your email came as a surprise, but more more importantly as I'm genuinely concerned about the potential impact of a 20% crown reduction on the trees' long-term health. I fully understand the importance of safety, and I'd like to find a solution that addresses any valid concerns without risking harm to these valuable and historic trees.

To that end, I've arranged for an independent tree consultant to update the comprehensive tree survey I commissioned in 2013. If their assessment recommends any work, I will submit the appropriate application to the council. I believe an independent evaluation is essential, as consultants offer an impartial perspective unlike tree surgeons, who may have a financial interest in recommending work. The consultant I've engaged contributed to the National Tree Safety Group's publication The Common Sense Risk Management of Trees, which was developed:

"in response to growing concerns regarding the unnecessary felling of trees. It aims to develop an approach that is proportionate to the actual risks from trees and recognises the importance of trees to society and the natural environment."

This survey represents a significant financial commitment, but it reflects my determination to protect these trees which likely pre-date both our properties from unnecessary intervention. Notably, they may be genetically significant, as they have not shown signs of ash dieback.

I'd also like to correct a detail in your application, which states the tree has not been pruned in over ten years. In fact, the trees were surveyed in 2013 and professionally worked on on 1 February 2016, and I have receipts to verify this. The feedback at the time was that the trees were best left untouched to preserve their health and structural integrity.

As I've now seen the application you submitted to the council, I will be submitting my own formal comments in response, along with a copy of this email and the earlier correspondence for context. I believe it's important that the council has a complete and accurate picture before making any decision.

Thank you for your understanding. I hope we can work together constructively with the council to determine the most responsible and sustainable way forward.

Tamzin

On Tuesday 6 May 2025 at 19:10:01 BST, Steve Hind <stevehind@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi Tamzin

Disappointed with your response on this as its a safety issue, so being a parent I thought you would understand.

Obviously as you are the owner with the duty of care if anyone does get hurt will prosecute you for negligence. Anyway let's hope the council are more caring and sensible

Won't contact you again

Regards

Steve

Yahoo Mail: Search, organise, conquer

On Tue, 6 May 2025 at 18:55, Tamzin Morphy

<tmorphy@yahoo.co.uk> wrote:

Trees are safest when they are not messed with. Ultimately the decision is with the council and I will communicate with them direct.

Please don't contact me further on this.

Tamzin

Sen t from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

On Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 16:29, Steve Hind <stevehind@yahoo.com> wrote:

Adding attachment

On Tuesday 6 May 2025 at 16:26:45 BST, Steve Hind <stevehind@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi Tamzin

I'm just about to apply to th e council to prune / maintain the Ash tree overhanging our garden. It's got quite a lot of deadwood now up in the canopy, that needs removing for safety

I've attached the request, so you can have a quick look through, obviously getting your permission would be really helpful to me as the tree is in your property. The tree surgeons who would do the work don't need access to your property to remove the deadwood

I don't know what the second tree looks like from your side, but if you are wanting to get that pruned so it's all done as a single job, I'm happy to have a chat and put you in touch with our tree surgeon

Thanks

Steve

PS - Just so you are aware I'm fully deaf, hence using email rather than popping around