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Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 21 November 2025
My ref: TF/TPO/783/1996/252305



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr Karl Pickering
Connick Tree Care
New Pond Farm
Woodhatch Road
Reigate
RH2 7QH

Place and Growth
Development Management Team
P.O. Box 157
Shute End, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WR

Tel: (0118) 974 6000

Dear Mr Pickering,

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 783/1996

APPLICATION NUMBER: 252305

SITE ADDRESS: 54 PARKWAY, CROWTHORNE, WOKINGHAM, RG45 6EW

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received and validated on the 26 September 2025.

I can confirm Wokingham Borough Council **refuses consent**, to the following work being carried out to tree(s) included in the above-mentioned Tree Preservation Orders (TPO):

Proposed tree works to A1 of TPO 783/1996:

T1, Oak:

- Fell completely in sections, using lowering ropes where necessary.

Reasons stated for works:

The long-term future of the tree is questionable due to its location and future growth requirements. In addition, its proximity to the neighbouring property is causing anxiety and apprehension to the residents.

Officer comments:

When looking to undertake works to a protected tree it is the responsibility of the applicant to supply adequate proof with the TPO application, in the form of 'written arboricultural advice or other diagnostic information from an appropriate expert.' To date, no detailed arboricultural information has been submitted to demonstrate that the proposed work is in the interests of health and safety or based on any arboricultural need.

The application does not include adequate technical information to justify the removal of a mature protected oak. No arboricultural report, decay detection results, structural assessment, or evidence of significant defects has been provided. The photographs submitted show only a point

of competition with an adjacent pine tree, which is a common ecological and structural relationship in mixed woodland settings, and they do not demonstrate that the oak, or any part of it, is in danger of collapse or presents an imminent safety hazard.

The application does not demonstrate that less intrusive management options have been considered. Which could include crown reduction or selective branch pruning to address concerns of overhang, clearance, or branch competition. A detailed aerial (climbing) inspection to establish the actual structural condition of the upper crown or targeted remedial works should any defects be identified. Removal of a TPO tree is considered a last resort, and the absence of exploration of alternatives renders the proposal unjustified.

No professional assessment has been provided to show that the structural integrity or long-term viability of the oak is compromised. The statement that “the long-term future of the tree is questionable due to its location and future growth requirements” is unsupported by arboricultural data. Likewise, assertions regarding anxiety or apprehension of neighbouring residents, while noted, do not constitute grounds for removal under TPO legislation unless linked to demonstrable and evidenced physical risk.

The oak is a mature specimen forming part of the established tree canopy in the local area. It provides significant public amenity through its size, landscape presence, seasonal interest and contribution to the character of the surrounding environment. Additionally, the tree offers important ecological benefits, including habitat for birds, invertebrates and mammals, carbon sequestration, shading, cooling and air-quality improvements. Due to these collective benefits, its removal would result in a clear and unacceptable loss of amenity, contrary to the purpose of the Tree Preservation Order.

Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and associated TPO regulations, the Local Planning Authority can only grant consent for removal when justified by clear arboricultural evidence or overriding considerations. In this case, the reasons provided, relating primarily to proximity and perceived future concerns, do not meet the threshold required to justify felling of a healthy, high-amenity oak tree.

For the reasons set out above, the Local Planning Authority **refuses consent** for the removal of the protected oak tree. However, the Council would welcome a further Tree Work Application supported by appropriate levels of arboricultural evidence i.e. full VTA, climbing inspection (with photographs of all bio mechanical defects that require remedial pruning) and results of any secondary investigations (i.e. resistograph etc.) to justify the proposed works.

Informative:

If you are aggrieved by any of the conditions attached to your consent, you may appeal to The Planning Inspectorate (PINS). Because of coronavirus (COVID-19), you can currently only make a planning appeal online. You cannot currently apply by post.

For more information go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tree-preservation-order-appeal-form>

Telephone: 0303 444 5570 or e-mail it to: treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Your appeal should be received within one month of receipt of this decision or any such longer period as the Planning Inspectorate may allow.

You are advised that this letter is in respect of the **Tree Preservation Order only** and it does not imply that consent would be forthcoming from the owner of the tree(s) or any such other persons from whom consent would be required.

If we can be of any further assistance, please contact the Tree Officer via email to: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Hannington". The script is cursive and fluid.

Chris Hannington
Trees and Landscape Team Manager

cc. Applicant - Mrs Collins, 54 Parkway, Crowthorne, Wokingham, RG45 6EW