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Date: 17 August 2026
My ref: TF/TPO/278/1985/261468



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr Harpal Mann
12 The Junipers
Barkham
Wokingham
RG41 4UX

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

Tel: (0118) 974 6000

Dear Mr Mann,

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 278/1985

APPLICATION NUMBER: 261468

SITE ADDRESS: 12 THE JUNIPERS, WOKINGHAM, BERKSHIRE, RG41 4UX

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received and validated on the 22 June 2026.

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 Single 12 of TPO 278/1985:

T12 (Oak) Crown reduction by reducing the side canopy by up to 2 metres from foliage-bearing points back to suitable growth points to retain a natural form.

Reasons stated for works:

As above.

Officer comments:

The Council has carefully considered the reasons and supporting information submitted in relation to the proposed crown reduction of T12 Oak. Following a site inspection, it is not considered that sufficient arboricultural justification has been provided to warrant the proposed works.

T12 Oak is a mature tree that makes a positive contribution to the visual amenity, character and appearance of the locality. At the time of inspection, the tree exhibited a relatively balanced and well-formed crown structure, with good physiological vigour and no obvious signs of significant structural defects, decline, disease or decay that would reasonably necessitate remedial pruning works.

The application proposes reducing the side canopy by approximately 2 meters from foliage-bearing points. However, no specific arboricultural reason has been submitted to demonstrate why such pruning is necessary. The supporting information does not identify any structural defect, safety concern, excessive encroachment, damage to property, or other exceptional circumstance that would justify the removal of a substantial quantity of healthy living growth from the crown.

Furthermore, the tree was observed to have adequate clearance from adjacent buildings and structures, and sufficient lower crown clearance above the surrounding ground level. As such, the proposed works do not appear necessary to address any existing conflict between the tree and its surroundings. The Council is not satisfied that the pruning would provide any significant arboricultural, safety or management benefit that would outweigh the loss of amenity resulting from the reduction of the tree's natural crown.

Oak trees generally respond best to minimal intervention where no demonstrable defect or management requirement exists. The proposed reduction would introduce multiple pruning wounds throughout the crown and would unnecessarily diminish the tree's natural form and visual contribution without providing a corresponding arboricultural benefit. In the absence of a sound and evidence-based justification, the proposed works are considered excessive and unwarranted.

Should concerns remain regarding the tree's structural integrity, the Council would welcome the submission of a further Tree Works Application supported by an appropriate level of arboricultural investigation and evidence. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to, a comprehensive Visual Tree Assessment (VTA), aerial inspection with clear photographs identifying all relevant biomechanical defects, and the results of any internal decay detection investigations of the lower main stem and/or principal scaffold branches, such as Sonic Tomography and/or Resistograph testing. This information would enable the Council to make a more informed assessment of the tree's condition and the necessity of any future proposed works.

Due to the reasons stated above the proposed works to the subject Oak tree have been refused.

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 may 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,



Chris Hannington
Trees and Landscape Team Manager