

Tel: (0118) 974 6000  
Email: [development.control@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:development.control@wokingham.gov.uk)  
Date: 01 November 2024  
My ref: TF/TPO/1421/2012/242258



## WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Miss D Gogeva  
Forester Tree Care Ltd  
36 Glebe Road  
Egham  
Surrey  
TW20 8BT

|                             |
|-----------------------------|
| Place and Growth            |
| Development Management Team |
| P.O. Box 157                |
| Shute End, Wokingham        |
| Berkshire RG40 1WR          |
| Tel: (0118) 974 6000        |

Dear Miss Gogeva,

**TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 1421/2012**

**APPLICATION NUMBER: 242258**

**SITE ADDRESS: 1 WELLESLEY DRIVE, CROWTHORNE, WOKINGHAM, RG45 6AL**

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was validated on the 03 September 2024. Please accept my apologies for this delayed decision.

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 A5 of TPO 1421/2012:**

T1 Silver Birch:

- Reduce crown (1m-2m)

T2 Lime:

- Pollard (3m-4m)

T3 Holly:

- Fell and Eco Plug

### **Reasons stated for works:**

To stimulate healthier growth, to avoid potential damage to the property and to allow more light into the garden.

### **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 trees are dangerous or diseased or that the proposed work is in the interests of health and safety.

Crown reductions remove a large amount of leaf and live material which will affect the trees ability to photosynthesise and sustain itself. It also causes multiple wounding which increases the tree's susceptibility to disease and decay and should only be considered where there would otherwise be a risk of failure due to a significant defect. Whilst the Council appreciates that a certain amount of pruning to the subject Silver Birch would be reasonable, the proposed crown reduction does not appear to be justified at this time.

The subject Lime tree is a lapsed pollard with subsequent regrowth forming a new crown. Pollarding is a process of tree management where the crowns are cut back to a single stem. Trees are specifically managed in this way from an early age allowing them to adapt to such severe work. "Pollarding" or "topping" of a maiden mature tree or lapsed pollard which has formed a new crown with large diameter scaffold branches, would be highly disfiguring, have a detrimental effect on the health and visual appearance of the tree and is also more likely than crown reduction to cause severe dysfunction and decay in major structural parts of the tree.

Proposals of felling protected trees are unlikely to be given consent unless there are strong reasons for doing so. The reasons given for the removal of the Holly tree i.e. to allow more light into the garden, fail to highlight any reasons to conclude that the works are 'proportionate' and justified in the interests of health and safety or structural damage, at this time.

Allowing trees to be removed for these reasons would set an unacceptable precedent for dealing with similar applications in the future and would threaten the retention of many urban trees throughout the Borough.

Wokingham Borough Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019 which commits us to playing as full a role as possible in reducing our carbon footprint to be net carbon zero by 2030. The Borough Council aims to increase the levels of carbon sequestration through greening the environment. The preservation and enhancement of tree canopy cover in the Borough will play an important role in this.

On balance the reasons and information submitted with the application are not sufficient justification for the proposed work specification. However, if there are concerns over a trees structural integrity the Council would welcome a further Tree Work Application supported by appropriate levels of arboricultural evidence i.e. full VTA, aerial inspection (with photographs of all bio-mechanical defects) and results of any internal decay detection investigations of the lower main stem and/or scaffold branches (i.e. Sonic Tomograph and/or Resistograph Drill) to justify the proposed works.

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

However, I can confirm that Wokingham Borough Council **consents, with conditions**, to the following lesser works being carried out to the tree(s) included in the aforementioned Tree Preservation Order (TPO):

#### **Approved Tree Work to G2 of TPO 1146/2006:**

T1 Silver Birch:

- Tip reduce branches to give a 5m height clearance from ground level over the adjacent road and a 3m height clearance from ground level elsewhere.
- Crown clean to remove all dead, broken and significantly decayed branches.

T2 Lime:

- Tip reduce branches to give a 5.5m height clearance from ground level over the adjacent road and a 3m height clearance from ground level over the adjacent public footpath.

**The consent is granted subject to the following conditions:**

1. The above works must be completed before **01 November 2026** and in the event of the works not being completed by that date, further consent will be required.
2. Work must be carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998 – 2010 'Tree work - Recommendations'. Ensuring all branches are taken back to a suitable growth point.
3. Climbing spikes shall not be used whilst undertaking any form of works on living trees, except on trees to be felled.

**Reasons for conditions 1-3.....**

1. To ensure that our records remain accurate.
2. To ensure the health, safety and visual amenity of the tree(s) and ensure works are undertaken in accordance with recognised arboricultural good practice.
3. Spikes can cause extensive long-term damage to trees.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:development.control@wokingham.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Hannington". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Hannington" clearly legible.

Chris Hannington  
Trees and Landscape Team Manager

cc. Applicant: Mrs Liz Husbands, 1 Wellesley Drive, Crowthorne, Wokingham, RG45 6AL

Please note that your attention is drawn to the following information:

### **Bird Nesting Season and Presence of Bat Roosts**

In accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and Countryside Rights of Way Act (2000), consideration must be given to the timing and type of tree work operations, to avoid causing disturbance to any nesting birds or bat roosts that may be present within the tree(s).

The Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to intentionally kill, injure, or take, possess, or trade in any wild animal listed, and prohibits interference with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places.

It is advised that all non-urgent major tree work and hedge cutting operations are undertaken at a time to avoid disturbing nesting birds during the breeding season (to which the bird nesting season is considered to be from March to July). Where bats are suspected to be present, it is recommended that advice first be sought from a licenced bat specialist and if appropriate, the relevant licence(s) be obtained before any major tree work or hedge cutting commences.

Further information can be found at the following:

DEFRA (Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs)  
Tel: 08459 33 55 77 or by email at [helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.defra.gov.uk/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/)

Natural England  
Tel: 0845 600 3078 or by email at [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)  
Website: [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

Bat Conservation Trust  
Tel: 0845 1300 228 or by email at [enquiries@bats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bats.org.uk)  
Website: [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)

### **Forestry Act 1967 and Felling Licences**

If it proposed to fell a tree or trees greater than 5 cubic metres or sell more than 2 cubic metres of timber in any calendar quarter, a Felling Licence from the Forestry Authority may be required.

Please note that Felling Licences are not required to remove trees from domestic (residential) gardens. Where you are the landowner of large pieces of land with numerous trees, clarification from the Forestry Commission may be required as to whether a Felling licence is needed.

For more information on Felling Licences, please speak to the Woodland Officer at the Forestry Commission on 01296 696543

Further Information can be found on the Forestry Commission Website:  
[www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)