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Date: 05th November 2015
My ref: KN/CA/Wargrave/2015



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Environment
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Dear Mr Loudon

SECTION 211 NOTIFICATION OF WORK TO TREES WITHIN THE WARGRAVE CONSERVATION AREA – THE OLD VICARAGE, 114 HIGH STREET, WARGRAVE, READING, BERKS, RG10 8DH

With reference to your email notification dated 03rd November 2015 I can confirm that the Borough Council raises **no objections** to the proposed tree works being undertaken as specified within the Wargrave Conservation Area.

Site: The Old Vicarage, 114 High Street, Wargrave, Berks, RG10 8DH

Proposed works:

Copper Beech (T1 on attached plan)

- Fell to ground level and replace.

Reasons:

Health and safety issue – significant *Meripilus* root pathogen issues. There are a large number of fruitifications present, extending out on radial roots and covering 180 degrees of root plate.

An Arboricultural report by Heritage Tree Services Ltd was submitted with the application, dated: 03rd November 2015, ref: The Old Vicarage, Wargrave (see attached).

Informative:

The Copper Beech *Fagus sylvatica* 'Purpurea' is a listed on the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association's website as Tree Record 5847.

Meripilus giganteus (Giant polypore): The commonest decay fungi are bracket fungi which produce plate-like structures or 'brackets'. The most serious of these, because the fruiting body is not persistent and can therefore only be seen in the autumn, is *Meripilus giganteus*.

This produces large masses of rounded, wavy edged, soft plates at the base of infected trees and on the roots. The upper surface is brownish yellow to chestnut brown when fresh and the lower surface is creamy white. With age the colour darkens and the fruit body deteriorates into a black, slimy mess especially after frost.

Meripilus giganteus causes extensive root decay in broadleaves especially mature beech and is a major cause of windblow in beech trees. Decay can be rapid and any sign of this fungus should immediately ring alarm bells. Because the fungus kills and decays roots there may be an associated decline in the condition of the crown although frequently there are few obvious signs and otherwise apparently healthy trees can fall over even in calm weather.

The replacement tree must be of the following species, which is to be planted adjacent to the tree removed:

- *Fagus sylvatica* 'aspenifolia'

In this case it would be appropriate to plant a minimum of a 'select standard' size (10-12 cm girth, or, if root-balled, 250cm) on the site. This will become a landscape feature in the future.

Replacements planted under the relevant section of the legislation become covered by the original Conservation Area and are subject to the provisions of it. The duty to replace shall attach to the person who is from time to time the owner of the land, i.e. the person who now owns it.

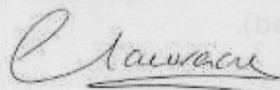
For your information, the season to plant a bare-rooted tree is mid-November to the end of March. Container-grown trees can be planted outside this time, but do not plant in periods of drought. For both types, avoid frosty soil. To be planted in the 2016-2017 season. Please let the Council know when the replanting has been carried out so that the Tree Officer may come and inspect the tree.

The tree was inspected by Kelly Noviss, from ground-level only, and works discussed with Mr Schatunowski, on the 04th November 2015.

You are advised that this letter is in respect of the Conservation Area legislation only and does not imply that consent would be forthcoming from the owner of the tree or any such persons from whom consent would be required.

Please be aware that this work should be carried out by 30th November 2017 and in the event of the work not having been done by that time, further notification will be required. If you have any questions please contact Kelly Noviss, Tree and Landscape Officer.

Yours sincerely

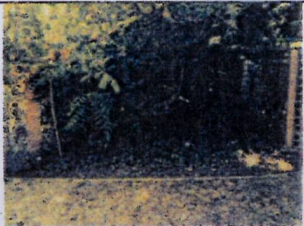


Clare Lawrence
Head of Development Management

SITE: The Old Vicarage, 114 High Street, Wargrave, RG10 8DH **DATE:** 3rd November 2015

Overview:

1 x over mature Copper Beech - Beech trees of this age status are, sadly, very susceptible to *Meripilus giganteus*. The pathogen causes white rot but with a soft rot phase early on. It degrades pectin, the substance that binds cells together. Decayed wood becomes brittle with potential for fracture, both across the grain and longitudinally. The extent of fruitifications, shows the pathogen is quite advanced. However, on account of the size of fructifications, it would appear significant that the fungus has plenty of wood to feed on. The disease is often located in deeper root area, and with ample buttress and the canopy in leaf, it can give an impression of acceptable condition. However, the problem is progressive and retaining the tree delays the final day, leaving some liability in terms of duty of care. My feeling is to deal with this and hopefully work with you to design a new planting scheme, perhaps with some more unusual Beech (this disease does not affect young /middle aged trees).

			
<i>Meripilus giganteus</i> identified	Access for track mat from driveway to work area	Area to prune and older trellis to remove for access	Works area craning point for lowering sections

Work Scope:

I feel the property is too vulnerable to have a 100 tonne crane working so close by, so I propose to dismantle the tree in sections using modern rigging techniques (sectional lowering /portable winch systems, etc.) This is carried out to a point where the tree can be finally felled at a vastly reduced size (approx.10 metres). Debris is chipped and removed by a regular fleet of smaller trucks. Some will wait on Station Road to allow driveway to function. As there is no turning area under the Beech, we will reverse in and out of work area. There will be a number of different compact lifting loaders and crane vehicles to achieve this. So quite a lot of plant to assist efficient processing of 60 tons of tree. Subsequent major road haulage/removal of debris and timber everyday as job progresses.