

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE		
DATE:	2 FEBRUARY 2022		
TITLE:	PROPOSED PRUNING OF ONE HORSE CHESTNUT TREE AT HILLBROW, READING		
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1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report to Committee the proposed pruning of one Council owned Horse chestnut tree on Land opposite 32-36 Hillbrow, Reading, which is subject to Tree Preservation Order No. 77/08 (TPO plan attached - Appendix 1).

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the proposed pruning be approved.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 25 November 2021, an application was received from Reading Borough Council's Tree Officer in Parks seeking consent to prune one Horse chestnut tree on Council land opposite 32-36 Hillbrow (application reference 211908/TPO).

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

- 4.1 As the Council owned and maintained tree is subject to a Tree Preservation Order, a formal application is required for the pruning to be approved.
- 4.2 The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires applications for works to Council owned or maintained trees to be decided by a Committee of the Council which is not responsible for managing the land to which the application relates.
- 4.3 The law also requires a public notice to be displayed for at least 21 days giving details of the proposed works and contact details for any comments to be sent. A site Notice was attached to the tree on 14 December 2021 and left for the required period, ending 4 January 2022. No comments have been received on the proposals.

5. PROPOSED WORKS

- 5.1 The application seeks approval for the following works:
- Horse chestnut (T1 of TPO 77/08) - 2m overall crown reduction
- 5.2 The reason for pruning is to reduce the weight of the main limbs. The tree inspection highlighted a cavity at the base and multiple minor cavities throughout from previous branch losses - the latest branch having failed in May 2021. The tree

is located directly adjacent to a parking area and access to The Ridgeway School, and while it appears to have good vigour, the pruning is required to minimise the chance of further branch loss. Photographs are provided in Appendix 2.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 Officers have inspected the tree and the works proposed are considered to be reasonable to manage the risk presented by the tree. It is therefore recommended that the works be approved.

7. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 7.1 The appropriate management of trees and the replacement of those felled contributes to the 2021-2022 Corporate Plan aim for Reading to be a 'nicer, greener, more attractive place to live'.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).
- 8.2 The proper management and maintenance of Council trees is fundamental in responding to the climate emergency declaration and meets with the aims of the Council's adopted Tree Strategy.

9. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 9.1 Public notices have been put in place for a 21-day period, as discussed above.

10 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 Where appropriate the Council must have regard to its duties under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, to have due regard to the need to—
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 10.2 There are no direct implications arising from the proposals.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Preparing, serving confirmation and contravention of TPO's are services dealt with by the Council's Legal Section.
- 11.2 Applications for works to Council owned TPO trees are to be decided by a Committee and one which is not responsible for managing the land to which the application relates.

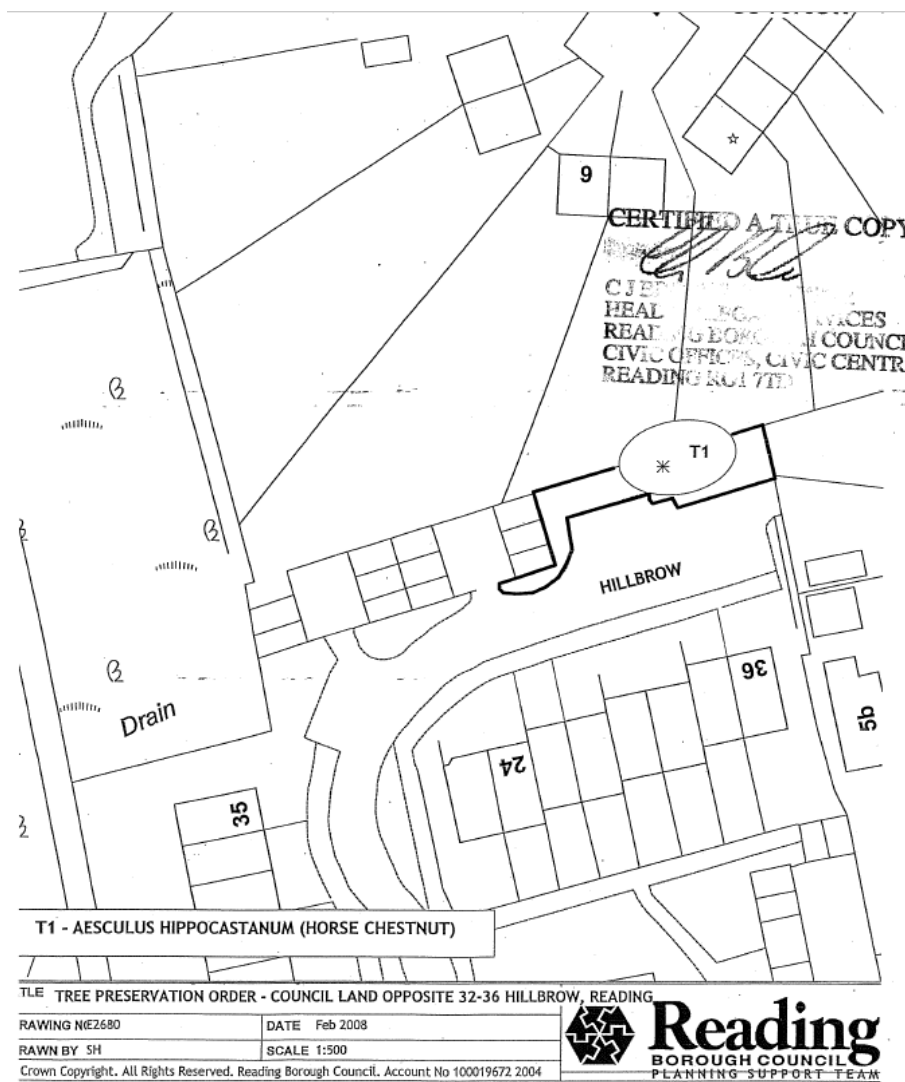
12. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 Administrative

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 13.1 Planning Sections street index of TPO's
- 13.2 Register of Tree Preservation Orders
- 13.3 Plan for TPO 77/08 relating to Hillbrow, Reading (Appendix 1)
- 13.4 Photographs (Appendix 2)

Appendix 1 - Plan for TPO 77/08



Appendix 2 - Photographs

