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Clerk: Ruth Davies

Shelley Clark

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Town Hall, St Ives Road

Maidenhead, Berks SL6 1RF

27th May 2020

Dear Shelley

**20/00988/FULL 5 Oakdene Sunningdale Ascot SL5 0BU**

**Two storey side/rear extension, alterations to front entrance, 1 No. additional rear dormer and 2 No. front and 2 No. rear rooflights.**

The building extension itself appears to be acceptable.

What is less acceptable is the information from the arboricultural report that indicates there is a real risk of tree root damage resulting from this extension.

Under section 3.1.3 of the arboricultural report it is stated that 3 category B trees and 3 Category C trees are at risk of root damage due to the proposed building.

Section 3.1.4 states that the proposed building extension incurs into the RPA’s of T1, T2 and T3 (Holly trees) and T4, T5 and T6 (Silver birch trees). This same section then mentions that small diameter piles are planned (to support the building) which will significantly reduce root disturbance.

Section 2.2.5 proposes a ‘no- dig’ principle of construction. The Parish Council are aware of a recent planning application proposing ‘no dig principles’ as a way of minimising tree root damage which has been refused by RBWM.

The report states that two category B and two category C trees require pruning. Additionally, pruning of T1, T2, T3 and T5 needs to be undertaken to allow for scaffolding.

Section 4.7.2 recommends using spades, forks and trowels during construction in the RPA of trees except for piling. The Parish Council are concerned how the excavation of trees roots with construction personnel using hand-held trowels can be effectively managed.

This same section includes the following statements: “…*once roots have been located the trowel should be used to clear the soil away from them (roots) without damaging the bark*”………“*roots greater than 100mm in diameter should only be cut after consultation…..”*

Page 42 of the arboricultural report shows a plan of the proposed building extension and its significant encroachment into the RPA of the trees.

This is shown below.

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On the basis of the evidence provided in the arboricultural report the Parish Council would recommend this application is **REFUSED**.

However, this is subject to referring the application to the Tree Officer for expert advice.

Regards

Yvonne Jacklin and Michael Burn

Co-Chairs of Planning