

Mr J Hodge,
All Saints Church
Downshire Square
Reading

Frances Martin
Director for Economic Growth
and Neighbourhood Services

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8th August 2022

Your contact is: Andrei Nazare, Planning, Development & Regulatory Services

Dear Mr. Hodge,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO FOUR TREES AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH, DOWNSHIRE SQUARE, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your notification of 10th July 2022, regarding the above, with accompanying Arboricultural Report from Crown Consultants.

Further to your e-mail exchange with my colleague Sarah Hanson and the Arboricultural Report by Crown Consultants, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- T1 Lime - remove epicormic shoots around the base; remove deadwood from the crown
- T4 Holly - reduce Southern and Western radial spreads to 2.5m; reduce overall height to 6.5m above ground level

With regards to T4 Holly, you have also requested permission to remove a branch that has fallen from another tree (T5) and has caught up in its crown. My colleague confirmed this can be removed as a matter of high priority in her e-mail of 11th of July 2022, as such this is not included in the tree works listed above.

In relation to T2 Yew, we note the recommendation for soil amelioration through a combination of aeration and mulching to improve the condition of the tree. We hope that the Church implement this to prevent its continued decline and the potential loss of the tree, as Yews are particularly in keeping with Churches.

There are no works proposed to T3 Holly.

The agreed works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 21st August 2022.

This decision is valid for two years from the date of this letter, after which it lapses.

You were advised by my colleague, Sarah Hanson, in her 10th March 2022 and 11th July 2022 e-mails about the protected status of two trees (T5 Cypress & T6 Yew in the Arboricultural Report; G1 on the Tree Preservation Order 6/16) - that a tree works application must be submitted via the Planning Portal before we can issue a decision on the proposed works to these trees. She also chased this submission in an email to you on 27th July 2022 but has not received a response.

As an application for carrying out works to T5 and T6 has not been received, NO works are currently approved to these trees. **A tree works application must be submitted and approved before you can carry out works to these trees (T5 Lawson cypress and T6 Yew).**

Informatives

1. Removal of dead or dangerous wood: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. However written notice must be given 5 working days in advance of removing dead wood. Where a branch is deemed to be 'dangerous', i.e. where works are 'urgently necessary to remove an immediate risk of serious harm', you are required to give notice to the Council 'as soon as practicable after the works become necessary'.

2. Disturbance of wildlife: It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to disturb roosting bats or nesting birds. It is advisable to consult your tree surgeon/consultant to agree an acceptable time for carrying out any work. Wildlife and habitat controls are administered by Natural England who can be contacted on 0300 060 3900; enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely,

Andrei Nazare

Andrei Nazare
Assistant Natural Environment Officer