

Mr A Lambourne Moss
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Frances Martin
Director for Economic Growth
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Your Ref:

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13 July 2022

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr Lambourne Moss

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE ROWAN TREE AT 6 DOWNSHIRE SQUARE, READING -
SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 15 June 2022, relating to the above.

I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- Rowan in front garden - fell

You explained the conflict between the tree roots and the adjacent sewer pipe, with roots having had to be cleared from the inspection pit as they had caused a back up along the pipe. Whilst this would not necessarily be a reason to fell a tree, the Rowan is not a specimen tree hence we offer no formal objection to its removal.

As explained in correspondence, following the adoption of our second Tree Strategy last year, one aim of which is to increase canopy cover in the borough (conservation areas being priority areas for this), we are encouraging the retention of trees where possible and replacements where felling does occur. You advised that you were planning to plant a replacement in the front garden, which is positive. You further advised that you were considering a *Betula pendula Fastigiata* Joes, which is a very narrow/upright form of Silver Birch. As a variety of a native it should have good wildlife value, albeit wider environment benefits would be limited by the narrow canopy. I also note the recently planted street Lime tree nearby (outside No. 4) that you mention.

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

No works should be carried out within 6 weeks of the date of your notice, i.e. before 27 July 2022.

Informatives

1. 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

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer