

Mr J Sayer
Sayers Tree Services Ltd
Bourne Close
Reading
RG31 7BD

Frances Martin
Director for Economic Growth
and Neighbourhood Services

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Your Ref:

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6 October 2022

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

Dear Mr Sayer,

RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF TWELVE TREES AND ONE GROUP OF TREES AT WOODROW COURT, CHURCH ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your notification of 12 September 2022, regarding the above.

Further to your notification and the Visual Tree Assessment dated 28 October 2021, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- 3x Sycamore trees (T202, T204, T227) - fell to safe height
- 7x Sycamore trees (T179, T181, T182, T185, T190, T197, T247) - fell to ground level
- 1x Ash tree (T187) - fell to ground
- 1x Horse chestnut tree (T201) - fell to safe height
- 2x dead trees (G1) - fell to ground level

On 27 September 2022, my colleague Sarah Hanson and I visited Woodrow Court to see the trees and were able to confirm the findings of the provided Visual Tree Assessment. The trees subject to the proposed felling present various degrees of wounds and deteriorating health, fungal brackets, cavities, show signs of ash dieback (T187), are dead or unsafe to retain - as such none are worthy of a Tree Preservation Order and felling is agreeable. Please note that the Visual Tree Assessment indicates 2 of these trees will be removed because they are dead (G1).

Under Section 213 (1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, a landowner is under a duty to replace a tree which is removed because it is dead or dangerous. The duty on the landowner is to plant another tree of an appropriate size and species at the same place as soon as he or she reasonably can.

In this case the Council would expect 2 replacement trees of a minimum 10-12cm girth and 3m high to be planted within Woodrow Court in the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of felling, whichever is soonest. Please ensure the species are agreed with the Council prior to purchase and planting.

The Council is encouraging replacement planting for all felled trees in order to help reach the Tree Strategy's objectives to increase canopy cover in the Borough, to mitigate climate change effects (reducing heat island effect, rainwater runoff, air and noise pollution) as well as to maintain amenity value on the property and in the wider area. I acknowledge that replacement planting on the slope may not be desirable but hope that your client can accommodate replacements in the more flat areas, even if these are of smaller species than those removed.

The agreed works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 24 October 2022.

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

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

C.c. Housing 21 (company), Birmingham