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29 March 2022

Mr J Smith
Big Heart Tree Care
1 Thorney House
Drake Way
Reading
RG2 0GZ

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning

Dear Mr Smith

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT CHRIST CHURCH, CHRISTCHURCH ROAD, READING -
SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for your tree works notice, dated 20 December 2021, and the Tree Inspection Report from Duckworth's Arboriculture relating to the False acacia, received on 18 January 2022.

I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work, with reference to your annotated photos and location plan submitted:

- T1 - ALDER TO BE CROWN REDUCED BY 5 METRES AS TOP HAS SNAPPED OFF.
- T2 - SYCAMORE TO BE POLLARDED TO PREVIOUS POINTS.
- T3 - SYCAMORE TO BE CROWN REDUCED BY 5 METRES CREATING POINTS FOR FUTURE POLLARDING.
- T4 - ACACIA TO BE FELLED TO GROUND LEVEL.

With regard to T2, it is noted that this appears to be a 'lapsed pollard'. As such, you may wish to consider the extent of works proposed with reference to guidance in 7.10 of BS3998:2010, and consider a crown reduction instead or, failing that, avoid pollarding back to the previous points and consider selective cutting, retaining some of the pollard branches.

In relation to T4, the Tree Inspection report details the multiple issues with the over-mature False acacia, include the presence of decay and Honey fungus. It is agreed that the tree is in a high occupancy location and that the risk the tree presents now outweighs its amenity value. As such, felling is reasonable.

All works, other than felling (please note informative 2 below) would benefit from full consideration of the timing of the work to minimise the long-term impact on the trees' health, particularly T2. The reductions should ideally be carried out in later summer (late July-Sep) or during the dormant period Dec-Jan.

The works involves the removal of a significant tree and in view of the aim within our Tree Strategy to increase canopy cover in the Borough, we encourage landowners to carry out replacement planting. Conservation areas are characterised by their verdant nature, making them a priority area for tree retention and planting, hence I hope the Church will take positive action in planting a replacement within their grounds. This is particularly important in this case given the additional canopy cover reduction as a result of the works to the other trees.

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

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer