



Mrs S Duckworth
Duckworths Arboriculture
Glebelands Cottage East
Mildenhall
SN8 2LR

Frances Martin
Director for Economic Growth
and Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

Our Ref: 211060/TCA
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440
Email: sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

9 July 2021

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning

Dear Sarah

RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE RED OAK AT KENDRICK GIRLS SCHOOL, LONDON ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your tree works Notice of 25 June 2021 regarding the above, with accompanying photographs.

As you are aware, the issue with the wall and tree have been ongoing for a number of years. Works were approved in 2019 to try and alleviate concerns as well as to reduce the weight and overhang of the tree over the adjacent building. Following submission of a Listed Building Consent planning application (ref 210338) in March this year to remove a section of wall (due to contact with the tree) and carry out repairs, the matter of the tree versus wall has been considered in more depth, including a site inspection by yourself with relevant parties. It is appreciated that the school have tried to work to retain the tree, which is particularly important in view of our new Tree Strategy adopted earlier this year. However, a pragmatic view is necessary in this case taking into account, the condition of the tree, it's amenity value, likely future issues (with the tree) and the need to consider the adjacent listed wall, which is also of importance.

I can confirm that in weighing up all factors, the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work, for the reasons provided in submissions which result in the tree not being worthy of a Tree Preservation Order:

- Red Oak (your T6) - fell.

The agreed works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 6 August 2021.

I note that the School intends to plant two new trees as replacement for the loss of the Oak - this is positive and will contribute to the aims of the Tree Strategy to increase canopy cover in the borough. Given the site's location within a low canopy cover ward, within the Air Quality Management Area and of course within a Conservation Area, the replacement planting is even more important. I assume the School has sought advice from you on suitable species and planting or will seek advice from a suitable professional in order to implement the planting in the 2021-22 planting season.

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

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

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

C.c. Iklim Joseph, Kendrick Girls School
Sarah Jolly, Paul Masters, David Brett & Bruce Edgar - Reading Borough Council