



Mr N Jones
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Frances Martin
Director for Economic Growth
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17 September 2021

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr Jones

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT KENDRICK VIEW DENTAL PRACTICE, 39 LONDON ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your tree works notice of 30 July 2021 regarding the above. Whilst the 6-week notice period has passed, I am writing this for completeness and for your client's consideration in deciding on the final works.

Your notice included the felling of one Norway Spruce, 3 Holly trees and the reduction of one Eucalyptus. As advised prior to submission, the 3 Holly are definitely within the conservation area, the Eucalyptus appears to be on the boundary of it (so I include it below) and the Norway spruce appears to be outside the conservation area.

In relation to the Holly trees, these are of limited amenity value hence not worthy of a Tree Preservation Order.

The reduction of the Eucalyptus is reasonable management given it has been reduced before.

In relation to the Norway spruce, this appears to be a healthy specimen of good form. Given its location at the end of the garden (on the boundary of the car park), it is not clear why the potential size of this tree would be problematic as it would not interfere with any structures. It would need to be crown lifted (I noted a few low branches have already been removed) over time to provide adequate clearance over the garden and car park but that would seem to be all. It seems pity to remove an established, mature tree unless there are health and safety reasons to do so.

As you may be aware, the Council adopted a new Tree Strategy earlier this year, one aim of which is to increase the canopy cover in the Borough, with focus on particular areas.

The Dental practice is located partly within a conservation area, is within the Air Quality Management Area and within a low canopy cover Ward. As such, the retention and replacement of trees is of greater importance. It would therefore be positive if your client could reconsider the felling of the Spruce and if felling goes ahead, that a replacement tree for that (as well as the Hollies) could be considered to aid with the aims of the Tree Strategy. The Council cannot increase canopy cover by the targeted amount on Council land alone and will rely on private owners to help meet the target.

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

- 3 No. Holly - fell
- Eucalyptus - crown reduce by 2-2.5m leaving a flowing crown profile

As mentioned, the Norway spruce is just outside the conservation area hence is not included in the list of formal works, but we have reservations about the felling of this tree as detailed above.

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

C.c. Manager, Kendrick View Dental Practice