



Mr. David White
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Frances Martin
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26th January 2021

Your contact is:

Andrei Nazare, Planning

Dear Mr. White,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TWO CONIFER TREES AT 38A EASTERN AVENUE, READING -
SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for your notification of 15th January 2021, regarding the above.

Further to the submitted location plan and photographs, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- T1 conifer - fell to ground level and grind out stump
- T2 conifer - fell to ground level and grind out stump

I note the reasons behind the proposed works are to prevent the ongoing/recurrent damage the patio pavement incurs from the root system of T1 and to stop the dropping of detritus from both of the trees into the adjacent pool. If the trees were subject to a TPO or worthy of a TPO we would suggest re-surfacing and would not accept the nuisance concerns as a reason to fell healthy trees. However, we offer no objection only because the trees do not meet the criteria for a TPO, being of limited amenity value and in poor surroundings thereby limiting their future potential.

The appraisal for the South Park conservation area is built on the statement that *'[...] mature tree cover, also give the area its coherence'*. Because *'there are no areas of public open space within the Conservation Area itself'*, the burden of providing the necessary green space, air quality improvements, soft breaks to visual perspective (as opposed to buildings all around), lowering the rain water runoff effect or improving the face value of properties, falls to the trees the residents of the South Park CA voluntarily plant or maintain in their private gardens. As the appraisal goes further to point, *'[...] significant tree cover within [private] plots'* is the positive characteristic of an otherwise *'[...] fully built up urban area composed of continuous frontages of two and three-storey buildings with front gardens to the back of pavement edge [...]'*.

The appraisal concludes, without a doubt, that one of the features that make a positive contribution to the historic character and appearance of the conservation area is *'good tree cover within the grounds of individual properties and throughout the area. [...] Trees therefore make a significant contribution to this suburban Conservation Area's special character and sense of identity'*.

Moreover, Reading Borough Council has declared a climate emergency in 2019 as we are now facing irreversible changes to our climate and biodiversity status. In the Natural Environment Team, we are fighting against unnecessary loss for every tree or patch of vegetation and are hopeful to reach our Tree Strategy's goal of increasing borough tree cover to 25% by 2030. Our work would not be possible without residents going the extra mile, retaining their private land trees even when they are not legally bound to do so and replacing trees when felling is deemed as necessary.

Replacement planting is therefore encouraged at alternative locations within the curtilage of the property in order to assist with the above aims.

The agreed works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 26th of February 2021.

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.
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