



Mrs Theresa Ridges
Calibra Tree Care LTD
Lane End Cottage
Warfield Street
Warfield
RG42 6AR

Frances Martin
Director for Economic Growth
and Neighbourhood Services

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Our Ref: 211512/TCA
Your Ref:

Email: lee.garner@reading.gov.uk

Date 4th October 2021

Your contact is:

Lee Garner, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mrs Ridges,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO A WILLOW AND FOUR SYCAMORES AT READING CANOE CLUB, THE WARREN, CAVERSHAM, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your Notification dated 10 September 2021 regarding the above.

Further to my site visit of 28th September 2021 I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

Willow

- Fell to ground level

Sycamore x 4

- Undertake re-pollarding works by pruning the new regrowth to their bases to encourage/retain the formation of the pollard point (knuckle).

With regards to the Willow tree, on inspection the tree displayed reduced leaf area within its canopy and was looking thin. The current level of canopy thinning is considered recoverable. However, a further inspection of the main trunk, using a rubber mallet to acoustically assess wood integrity, revealed extensive trunk decay. Due to the extent of the decay found this will undermine the tree and result in its failure. The extent of the decay in the trunk would rule out alternative pruning options e.g. lower pollard. As such the tree is not considered to be worthy of a Tree Preservation Order.

Normally, the agreed works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. 22 October 2021, however I consider that the condition of the Willow tree justifies carrying out the work sooner rather than later to address the health and safety issues the tree presents. In relation to the Sycamore, the same urgency does not apply and in any case, re-pollarding is best carried out after the leaves have fallen to minimise the impact on the future health of the trees.

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

As you may know, the Council adopted its second Tree Strategy earlier this year, one aim of which is to increase canopy cover in the Borough. This is particularly important in priority areas such as Conservation Areas and on 'treed corridors', both of which apply in this case. As such, we encourage the Canoe Club to replant with at least one replacement tree, preferably two, to help with Tree Strategy aims.

Informative(s)

1. 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

Lee Garner

Lee Garner
Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer

C.c Mr Greenham, Reading Canoe Club