



Mr. Simon Nash
The Tree House
Beckfords
Upper Basildon
Reading
RG8 8PE

Frances Martin
Director for Economic Growth
and Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
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Our Ref: 201687/TCA
Your Ref:

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5th January 2021

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr. Nash,

RE: RETROSPECTIVE NOTIFICATION TO FELL ONE SYCAMORE TREE AT 18 ZINZAN STREET, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your retrospective notification of 26th November 2020, regarding the above.

Further to the unauthorised felling of a Sycamore tree, our previous correspondence on this matter and the photographs provided with your Notice, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following (retrospective) proposed tree work:

- Sycamore - fell

As previously advised, under Section 213 (1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, a landowner is under a duty to replace a tree which is removed because it is dead or dangerous - this duty also applies where a tree is removed in contravention of the Act. The duty on the landowner is to plant another tree of an appropriate size and species at the same place as soon as he or she reasonably can. I note the proposal to plant a replacement Sycamore at the end of the garden, however I would suggest that given the significant number of Sycamore in the locality, including 3 remaining in the garden of No. 18, an alternative native, broadleaved species would be prudent to add diversity. A Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*), Field maple (*Acer campestre*) or Silver birch (*Betula pendula*) could be considered - please agree the species with us prior

to purchase and planting.

The Sycamore was felled in contravention of the Town & Country Planning Act, i.e. without giving the required Section 211 Notice. Given the information provided, had a S211 Notice been submitted prior to felling, the Council would not have objected to the tree's removal. As such, enforcement of the required replacement is considered an appropriate course of action in this case to resolve the breach.

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