



Mr N Seager
14 Downshire Square
Reading
RG1 6NH

Frances Martin
Director for Economic Growth
and Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
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Our Ref: 200777/TCA
Your Ref:

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8 June 2020

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr Seager

RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE TREE AT 14 DOWNSHIRE SQUARE, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your emails of 8 June 2020 and photographs to show the tree in question and its proximity to the boundary wall.

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

- Fell one tree in the rear garden as shown in Notification photographs.

You have advised that the tree is rubbing against the boundary wall causing damage and you have expressed concern that the wall will eventually fail. By virtue of the trees position against the wall, i.e. its inability to be retained long-term without harm to the wall, it is not suitable for inclusion within a Tree Preservation Order. As such, we have no objection to its removal.

The works should not normally be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 18 July 2020. However, if you are satisfied that waiting for this period would put the wall at risk of failure, then the removal of the tree within the 6-week period is reasonable.

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

The Council's adopted Tree Strategy and revised 2020 Tree Strategy (currently undergoing public consultation) aim to increase the canopy cover of the Borough for the multiple benefits that trees provide and to help mitigate the impact of climate change.

In addition, the Conservation Area Appraisal for Downshire Square states:

'Trees therefore make a significant contribution to this suburban Conservation Area's special character and sense of identity'

Planting/replanting on private land is an important contributor to meeting the aims of our Tree Strategy hence if you are able to plant a replacement tree on your property, that would be beneficial to both the Conservation Area and Borough as a whole.

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