



Ms J Halstead
The Red House
85 Christchurch Road
Reading
RG2 7BD

Frances Martin
Director for Economic Growth
and Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
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Our Ref: 201102/TCA
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440
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10 August 2020

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Ms Halstead

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE CHERRY TREE AT 85 CHRISTCHURCH ROAD, READING -
SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for your email of 3 August 2020 notifying us of your intention to fell the mature Cherry tree in the rear garden.

As you know, I've visited the property on a number of occasions, the last being in August last year. My photographs from that visit show the poor condition of the crown at that time. Photographs you have provided with this current Notice show no improvements and that there are defects present in the tree with dead wood being present. Whilst unfortunate, felling is reasonable due to the tree's poor condition and to prevent a potential hazard.

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

- Cherry tree in rear garden - fell

The agreed works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 14 September 2020.

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

It would be beneficial for a replacement tree to be planted on the property in order to retain tree coverage within the Conservation Area and Borough as a whole.

The Conservation Area appraisal for the Redlands Road Conservation Area acknowledges the importance of trees and states:

'..the Area is epitomised by mature properties situated in mature gardens, with extensive tree cover throughout, giving a general verdant feel to the area of buildings and trees in harmony.

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

The Council's adopted Tree Strategy aims to increase canopy cover in the Borough hence replacing trees that are lost is part of this. You may be aware that the Council declared a Climate Emergency last year; tree planting being one action we can take to help mitigate the impacts of climate change. In addition, your property is within the designated Air Quality Management Area where tree planting is encouraged to help improve air quality. I hope therefore that you will consider planting a new tree following the felling of the Cherry.

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