



Ms C Paskal
12 Downshire Square
Reading
RG1 6NH

Frances Martin
Director for Economic Growth
and Neighbourhood Services

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Our Ref: 200831/TCA
Your Ref:

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17 August 2020

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Ms Paskal

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT 14 DOWNSHIRE SQUARE, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your email of 14 June 2020 giving notice to fell one tree at 14 Downshire Square due to the proximity of branches to your garage.

As you are aware, I first visited on 9 July to try and assess the proposal from 12 Downshire Square, which was not possible. As explained in my email of 15 July, the Cherry tree (included in your Notice) forms the lower canopy but it is not the only tree and it was not clear from my visit whether the whole tree needed removing in order to provide suitable clearance from the garage and allow repairs.

I met your neighbour, Mr Seager, on 28 July to view the overhanging trees from his garden. As per my email of 28 July, the tree group adjacent to the garage consists of a multi-stem Laurel and a single stem Cherry which together form the canopy overhanging the garage. Removal of lower limbs and crown lifting to provide a minimum of 1.5-2m clearance from the garage seems reasonable and the owner was agreeable to this - indicating that he would arrange this. As mentioned, he also indicated that he would deal with the dead tree on the boundary at the same time.

Following my visit to Mr Seager, Mitch and I discussed further works to other vegetation overhanging 12 Downshire Square, both on site and via subsequent emails. It was

subsequently agreed that your Notice could be changed to include the more specific works to the trees overhanging the garage; the pruning of a Sycamore overhanging from the rear and works to trees at No. 14 overhanging the driveway of No. 12. I confirmed, that formal Notice was not required for the removal of Ivy from the boundary wall with No. 12 or for the removal of dead wood.

Further to my site visits and subsequent email exchanges, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

Trees at 14 Downshire Square (please note informative 4 below):

Cherry - remove one defective low branch

Cherry and multi-stem Laurel group - remove lower limbs and crown lift to provide 1.5-2m clearance from the garage at No. 12

Tree on frontage overhanging driveway of No. 12 - remove all dead branches and one, small live branch as indicated below:



Sycamore at All Saints Court, Downshire Square:

Reduce branches overhanging the rear garden of 12 Downshire Square, back to the boundary.

Whilst your Notice has changed over the period in which it has been considered, as it has been six weeks from the date of your original notification, I am happy that the works can go ahead; liaising with Mr Seager as appropriate.

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 or trees: 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

3. It is best to avoid works in the period immediately before or during bud burst and leaf fall to minimise the effect on the long-term health of the tree

4. Tree work consents on land not owned by the applicant: It is strongly recommended that the owner of the tree be advised of any proposed works. The owner's permission must be sought if the tree works involve work past the boundary line. This letter does not in any way imply that this Council has informed the owner or sought permission or will condone the use of consents to force any landowner to grant such permission.

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

C.c. Mitchell, 12 Downshire Square
Mr N Seager, 14 Downshire Square