Frances Martin
Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services

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Sarah Brett
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Reading
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Our Ref: 201623/TCA
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 374294
Email: andrei.nazare@reading.gov.uk

25th November 2020

Your contact is: Andrei Nazare, Planning

Dear Mrs. Brett,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1 ASH TREE AT 9 AND 1 ASH TREE AT 11 MAITLAND ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your tree works notification of 15th November 2020 regarding the above.

Further to your e-mail exchange with my colleague Sarah Hanson, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

1. Ash tree at no.9: 30% crown reduction all around
2. Ash tree at no.11: fell to ground level

It is worth mentioning the 30% crown reduction is a major impact to the tree's photosynthesis capacity due to significant loss of leaf area and it is probable to increase risk of long-term health issues or susceptibility to pests and pathogens. This can, to some degree, be mitigated by carrying out the works during December-January or late July-August.

Unfortunately for the Ash tree at no.11, it is too close to the brick wall to be suitable for retention, hence it is not worthy of a Tree Preservation Order. Felling a tree reduces canopy cover in the area in the context of Reading Borough Council having declared a climate emergency and our 2020 Tree Strategy having setting objectives to increase canopy cover, to an average of 25% by 2030. In order to meet these objectives, we hope that you will consider replacement planting to compensate the loss of green cover.

However, due to Ash dieback disease, it is not advisable to plant this species anymore. We recommend species from one of the genera or species: *Sorbus spp. (Rowan or Whitebeam), Betula spp. (Birch), Acer spp.*, etc.

The agreed works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 27 December 2020.

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: 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.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely,

Andrei Nazare

Andrei Nazare
Assistant Natural Environment Officer

C.c
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