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Frances Martin
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14 October 2020

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr & Mrs Olver

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TWO TREES AT 67 HAMILTON ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your initial Notice of works of 6 October and final confirmation of works of 12 October following our email discussion.

Your initial Notice included the removal of three damaged/diseased trunks from a five-stemmed Sycamore. However, the photos subsequently provided showed that the remaining two stems were of poor form, with a tight union at the base hence their sustainable life span was limited. In addition, the removal of three of the five stems which had grown up together would likely leave the remaining two stems subject to wind exposure to which they were not accustomed, resulting in potential windthrow (failure). The removal of all five stems was therefore deemed reasonable as a proposal.

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

- Five-stem Sycamore - fell entire tree (all stems)

The intention to remove dead wood from the Lime on the rear boundary is noted along with the intention to have it inspected.

The agreed works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 17 November 2020.

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

You may be aware that the Council declared a climate emergency last year and as a result we have amended our current Tree Strategy (due for adoption later this year). An important aim of the Strategy is to improve canopy cover in the Borough to help mitigate climate change and for the multiple benefits trees provide. Trees within the South Park conservation area are important as they form part of the character of the area. Private gardens cumulatively form significant green space within the Borough. It would therefore be beneficial if you could consider replacing the Sycamore with one or more trees in order to help achieve the aims of our Tree Strategy, which the Council cannot do purely on its own land. We encourage the planting of native or wildlife friendly trees for biodiversity reasons and to assist with the aims of our Biodiversity Action Plan.

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