

Mr. Stephen Richards
173 Whitley Wood Lane
Reading
RG2 8PW

Frances Martin
Director for Economic Growth
and Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

Our Ref: 201632/TCA
Your Ref:

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

8th December 2020

Your contact is: Andrei Nazare, Planning

Dear Mr. Richards,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT 1 ST PETERS HILL, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your notification of 17th November 2020, regarding the above.

Further to my site visit with colleague Sarah Hanson on 25th November 2020 and subsequent e-mail clarification regarding the Holy trees, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work, with reference to the submitted layout plan:

- Plum tree in front garden (light pink dot on sketch)
 - Reduce crown by approx. 15% / 1 metre all around
- Holy trees in back garden x3 (green dots on sketch)
 - Reduce crown by approx. 0.5 metres all around
 - Remove all lower dead stubs
- Sycamore trees x3 (blue spots on sketch)
 - Reduce crown by approx. 3m on the overarching side up to previous growth points.
- Sycamore tree by the garage (brown spot on sketch)
 - Fell to ground level and Eco-plug the stump
- Purple plum tree (dark purple dot on sketch)
 - Fell to ground level

For clarity, the removal of both Purple plums is allowed in order to implement planning approval 200419, with the requirement to plant one replacement Purple plum. This tree

works consent only includes the felling of one of those, hence the other (on the frontage) should only be removed in order to implement that planning consent.

Noteworthy mention regarding the trees to be felled: both trees, the sycamore and the plum tree, are of poor condition and don't contribute any meaningful amenity value to the locality. Moreover, the sycamore tree is growing too close to a garage.

However, the loss of 2 trees in the context of a climate emergency having been declared by the council and the council's 2020 Tree Strategy aiming for an increase in tree canopy cover in the borough is unfortunate.

Replacement planting is encouraged for the above reasons, for increasing the property's amenity value and for establishing a young tree stock for the future.

The agreed works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 29th 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.
Karen Taylor
1 St Peters Hill
Caversham