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Miss M Trevis
The Progress Theatre
The Mount
Reading
RG1 5HL

Our Ref: 200696/TCA
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440
Email: sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

2 June 2020

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Miss Trevis

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT PROGRESS THEATRE, THE MOUNT, READING -
SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for your Notification of 19 May 2020 regarding the above.

Further to my site visit of 19 May 2020, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- Cypress overhanging from Linden Mews - remove lower section (as indicated on the attached photograph) back to the boundary or main trunk
- Laburnum overhanging from Linden Mews - remove one main stem and one secondary branch, as indicated on the attached photograph
- Ash sapling in north-west landscape bed - fell
- Sycamore sapling adjacent to TPO Lime - fell
- Sycamore sapling and goat willow in south-west corner (between building and fence line) - fell.

We identified a dead tree on frontage (close to building where building damage has occurred) which it would be prudent to remove. Please note informative 4 below.

The works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 30 June 2020, other than the removal of the dead tree.

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

This Notice includes the removal of four live trees and one dead tree. You may be aware that the Council declared a climate emergency last year and in addition we have reviewed our existing Tree Strategy (public consultation currently in progress). The increase in canopy cover across the Borough is an important objective of our existing and revised Tree Strategy and will help to mitigate the impacts of climate change. In addition, The Mount Conservation Area Appraisal states that *'Trees therefore make a significant contribution to the conservation area's special character and sense of identity'*.

We therefore request that the Theatre consider replacement planting on its grounds to help with our objectives and to help maintain the character of the conservation area.

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

4. Under Section 213 (1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, a landowner is under a duty to replace a tree which is removed because it is dead or dangerous. The duty on the landowner is to plant another tree of an appropriate size and species at the same place as soon as he or she reasonably can.

In this case the Council would expect a replacement tree of a minimum 'standard' size (8-10cm girth and 2.75-3m high) to be planted within the curtilage of the Theatre in the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of felling, whichever is soonest.

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