



Mr S Bee  
Bee Tree Services  
155 Bath Road  
Reading  
RG30 2BD

Frances Martin  
**Director for Economic Growth  
and Neighbourhood Services**

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

Our Ref: 191466/TCA  
Your Ref:

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

21 October 2019

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr Bee

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO FOUR SYCAMORE TREES AT TOWNSEND HOUSE, CROSSLAND ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for your Notification of 6 September 2019 giving notice of the intention to fell 4 Sycamore trees at the above address.

You advised in your email of 23 September that these (likely self-set) trees are growing on a raised sewer mound. You also pointed out their position next to a retaining wall for the adjacent graveyard. The adjacent property is the Friends Meeting House at 2 Church Street and is a Grade II listed building. Whilst the walls are not specified in the listing, the wall on the east side adjacent to the trees is acting as a retaining wall for the mound on which the trees sit. The base of the trunks are approximately level with the top of the wall, hence there is potential for the roots to cause significant damage to this wall. Obviously any failure of the wall could then cause harm to the graveyard within the grounds of the Meeting House.

Whilst the trees provide amenity value and the largest trees is of generally good form, their location and growing conditions make their long-term future unsustainable.

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

- 4 No Sycamore trees on the boundary with 2 Church Street – fell

Trees provide multiple benefits in the urban environment and often contribute to the appearance of a conservation area. The Council declared a Climate Emergency earlier this year and through our Tree Strategy and Planning policies recognise the importance of maintaining and increasing canopy cover and encourage landowners to replant when trees are removed. I briefly discussed replanting with Mr Sandhu on site and he was happy to consider screening planting, in the form of a hedge, at least. We discussed evergreen planting to provide all year round screening between the properties and to screen the unsightly security fencing. Given the security issues mentioned by Mr Sandhu, defensive planting may be appropriate, e.g. using planting with spikey leaves or thorns.

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](mailto: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

*Sarah Hanson*

Sarah Hanson  
Natural Environment Officer