



Ms P D'Cruz
27 Alexandra Road
Reading
RG1 5PE

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

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Your Ref:

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7 October 2019

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Ms D'Cruz

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT 27 ALEXANDRA ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your email of 23 September 2019 regarding the above.

Further to my site visit of 26 September 2019, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- Pear and mature Cherry on southern boundary (with No. 29) – Crown reduce by 15-20%; crown lift to 3m above ground level through 360°. *The pear is a mature espalier tree of character, appropriate to the age of the property and pruning is reasonable to approve its appearance.*
- Small Cherry on southern boundary (with No. 29) – fell *This tree is not worthy of a TPO due to its size (little if any amenity value) and condition.*
- Tree overhanging from neighbours at No. 25 – cut back to boundary. *As advised, you may wish to speak to your neighbour about the excessive amount of Ivy on this tree with a view to severing the Ivy (at the base) if they wish to retain the tree.*
- Holly tree on northern boundary (with No. 25) – fell. *Your reason for felling this tree is to allow the adjacent Purple plum to grow better. As discussed, the mature Holly is by far the better tree in relation to condition and appearance; the Purple plum being in fairly poor condition and of*

poor form. If one of these trees was to be retained, the Holly is a much better specimen. I understand you are concerned about this tree in relation to its leaves and potential harm to your children. Whilst a lovely tree of significant age (possibly similar to the property) it has very limited visibility from the road, hence its amenity value is not sufficient to warrant a TPO. If it had had higher amenity value, it would be a tree worthy of protection.

- Purple plum on northern boundary (with No. 25) – fell.
This is a tree in fairly poor condition and of poor form. The retention of the adjacent Holly (see comments above) is encouraged.

The works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 4 November 2019.

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

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer