



Ms M Walsh
23 New Road
Reading
RG1 5JD

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

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

Our Ref: 200048/TCA
Your Ref:

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

22 January 2020

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Ms Walsh

RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE CONIFER AT 23 NEW ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your email of 12 January 2020 regarding the above.

Further to my visit of 21 January 2020, I have the following comments:

The large conifer has been subjected to pruning during its lifetime resulting in a poorly formed, multi-stemmed tree, effectively of two halves; one slightly lower denser half closest to the house and a taller thinner half closest to the road. The leaning main trunk is growing directly adjacent to the low-level boundary wall (with railings) which has been damaged by the roots, along with disruption to the pavement. The large tree is also in close proximity to the house, with branches touching the property.

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

- One conifer (largest of the 4 / northern-most tree) – fell. The tree is not worthy of a Tree Preservation order for the reasons given above.

It would be beneficial for a replacement tree to be planted on the property in order to retain tree coverage within the Conservation Area and Borough as a whole.

The Conservation Area appraisal for the Redlands Road Conservation Area acknowledges the importance of trees and states:

'..the Area is epitomised by mature properties situated in mature gardens, with extensive tree cover throughout, giving a general verdant feel to the area of buildings and trees in harmony.

Trees therefore make a significant contribution to this suburban Conservation Area's special character and sense of identity...'

The Council's adopted Tree Strategy aims to increase canopy cover in the Borough hence replacing trees that are lost is part of this. You may be aware that the Council declared a Climate Emergency last year; tree planting being one action we can take to help mitigate the impacts of climate change. I hope therefore that you will consider planting a new tree following the felling of the conifer.

The felling should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 23 February 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

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