



Ms P Daniel
Flat A
3 Alexandra Road
Reading
RG1 5PE

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

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

Our Ref: 191203/TCA
Your Ref:

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

8 August 2019

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Ms Daniel

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TWO TREES AT 3 ALEXANDRA ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your email of 19 July 2019 and subsequent clarification email of 22 July 2019, giving Notice of works to two trees at the above address.

Further to my site visit of 8 August 2019, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- Yew tree – Crown lift to 2m above ground level; crown reduce by 1.5m, prune back to the boundary on the north side, prune to give 2m clearance from the property (if required following the reduction) and crown thin by 25%
- Damson – prune to give 2m clearance from the property; crown reduce by 1.5m, crown thin by 25% and remove dead wood.

A crown thin of 25% is a very significant amount to any tree; the detrimental impacts of which should be carefully considered. The thinning will remove a significant portion of foliage (which produces the trees energy), create multiple wounds, each being an entry point for pathogens, and create greater wind turbulence within the crown potentially making branch breakage more likely. The Damson tree has a thin crown already with poor vigour, demonstrated by the extent of dead wood and thin foliage density. A significant crown thin, especially following the proposed crown reduction, would seem both

unnecessary and detrimental to the trees future health.

In relation to the Yew, it is not normal practice to thin a coniferous tree and you may wish to bear in mind that Yew trees will sprout new growth as a reaction which could result in a denser crown than the original. You may therefore wish to consider whether the crown thin is actually necessary following the reduction and crown lifting also proposed.

The Council are only able to object to proposed works within a Conservation Area by serving a Tree Preservation Order on a tree. Neither tree in this case is worthy of a TPO hence we offer no formal objection. The above advice is offered instead for your consideration.

The works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 30 August 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