

Mr. Nigel Smith
Church Warden
c/o St Peter's Church,
Caversham

Via email: nigel.woodcote33@waitrose.com

James Crosbie
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13th March 2019

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr. Smith,

**SECTION 211 NOTIFICATION OF WORKS TO TREES AT ST PETER'S CHURCHYARD,
CAVERSHAM, RG4 7AD AND WITHIN THE ST PETER'S CONSERVATION AREA.**

Thank you for your emails of 6 and 25 February 2019 regarding the above.

Further to my site visit of 27th February 2019, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

1. Irish Yew by Church door.
Reduce height to 1.5/2m to improve visual amenity of tree and increase light around the church entrance.
2. Hornbeam (Shattock Memorial Tree)
Crown-lift the tree to give approximately 2.5 clearance under the canopy for pedestrian access. As we discussed on site, in order to not cause permanent harm to the health and structure of the tree, I would recommend that only smaller secondary branches are removed as part of this tree work and the size of any pruning cuts be kept to an absolute minimum. Removing main (primary) branches would create a number of sizeable wounds at a similar height around the trunk of the tree which will act as a potential entry point for decay and may destabilise the tree in the long term. This recommendation also applies to the Maidenhair Tree (Carter Memorial Tree) - below.

3. Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) - Carter Memorial Tree
Crown-lift the tree to give approximately 2.5 clearance under the canopy for pedestrian access. As before I would recommend that only smaller secondary branches are removed as part of this tree work and the size of any pruning cuts be kept to an absolute minimum.
4. Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*)
Remove two lower branches back to trunk to give reasonable clearance under canopy.
5. Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
Reduce west side of canopy by 1-2m in order to give reasonable clearance to Church building.
6. Yew (*Taxus baccata*) by side door and steps.
You have applied to fell this tree to ground level due to the potential risk to listed Gravestones and the church roof. This is a healthy and old Churchyard Yew. In this location, the tree does not meet the criteria for inclusion in a Tree Preservation Order therefore the Borough Council will not take steps in order to prevent the tree from being removed. However, as discussed on site, it would be preferable to retain the tree as it is an old specimen and a potential 'ancient Yew' of the future. A light reduction of the tree to clear the church roof would be reasonable if you wished to carry out this work instead of the complete removal of the tree. For more information on the management and value of Churchyard Yew trees, go to the Ancient Yew Forum- www.ancient-yew.org .
- 7 & 8. 2x Irish Yews (*Taxus baccata* 'Fastigiata')
Overgrown trees of no particular arboricultural merit - fell or reduce to 2m and allow to regenerate.
- 9, 10, 11. Elm trees
Young trees - fell to ground level.
12. Yew (Identified as a Holly in your application). Reduce canopy 1-2m as necessary in order to give reasonable clearance to the adjacent Oak tree.

Informatives

1. You are advised that this decision is valid for one pruning operation to be undertaken within two years from the date of this letter, after which it lapses and a new Section 211 notification will be required.
2. 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'.

3. 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

4. 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 Duckworth

Sarah Duckworth
Assistant Natural Environment Officer