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Mr A Beardmore
13 New Road
Reading
RG1 5JD

Our Ref: 182049/TCA
Your Ref:

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

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr Beardmore

RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE SILVER BIRCH AT 13 NEW ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your Notification of 21 November 2018 regarding the above.

Further to my site visit of 20 November 2018, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- Silver birch in front garden – fell

The mature Birch is a prominent feature of New Road, providing amenity value and I know you were keen to retain the tree. However, as discussed during our meeting, the previous pruning has left the tree with a poor form and decay at the previous pruning points. Future management of the tree would be very difficult and would likely require a significant reduction below the decay points, which would in turn lead to future decay and would lower the crown such that it was then in front of your windows – the tree is very close to the front elevation. Birch polypore fungal brackets were noted on one of the previously reduced branches indicating decay/dysfunction in this branch, leaving it brittle and liable to break. Whilst the loss of the tree is unfortunate, the condition of the tree and future management issues are considered sufficient to justify its felling.

You may wish to consider replanting of some kind on the frontage to help maintain the green character of the house frontages in New Road.

The works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 2 January 2018 unless required for health and safety reasons.

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