

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

Jenks Group
Jenks Oxford Ltd
Unit 4 & 5 Queenford Farm
Dorchester on Thames
Wallingford
OX10 7PH

Our Ref: 181078/TCA
Your Ref:

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

23 July 2018

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Sir or Madam:

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 3 TREES AT 103 HAMILTON ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your Notification of 19 June 2018 advising of the intention to carry out the following works:

- T1 Yew – fell
- T2 Eucalyptus – re-pollard
- T3 Pine – tip reduce over lengthy laterals by 1.5-2m; thin crown by 30%

During my site visit of 20 July 2018, the proposed works were discussed with Mrs Curran. In relation to the Yew, this tree is visible from the road (Bulmershe Road) to the rear and provides amenity value as part of the overall tree coverage and as an individual hence its loss will be unfortunate. I understand that the main concern is that the canopy overhangs the rear garden area (used for growing vegetables and a proposed seating area) and parking area; the berries causing a nuisance. The removal of a healthy tree is undesirable for nuisance reasons, albeit the nuisance is appreciated. On amenity grounds, the tree would be worthy of a Tree Preservation Order. However, its location in very close proximity to the rear boundary wall is noted (the tree having capacity to increase in trunk girth).

In relation to the Eucalyptus, whilst re-pollarding is acceptable, the potential to fell the tree was discussed with Mrs Curran. The felling of the tree would be acceptable should this be the ultimate decision hence the Notification for this tree has been changed to felling, any lesser works being acceptable within this agreed work.

In relation to the Pine, a crown thin is an unusual specification for a Pine (or most coniferous species) and would have to be done very carefully to ensure an even branch structure remaining. 30% is a significant percentage, being the maximum that should be considered, as stated in 7.5 of BS 3998:2010. I understand that the concern is about dead branches and to tidy up branches within the crown. I therefore suggested that 'crown cleaning' may be more appropriate, which equates to a minor thin.

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

- T1 Yew – fell
- T2 Eucalyptus – fell (the lesser works of re-pollarding, if carried out instead, being within this allowance)
- T3 Pine – reduction of overextended laterals by approx. 1.5-2m to bring them back to the natural crown line whilst maintaining the natural crown shape of the tree; crown thin by a maximum of 30% (lesser thinning by crown cleaning, i.e. removal of dead, dying, low vigour, crossing/rubbing branches, being within this allowance if carried out instead).

The works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 31 July 2018.

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

C.c. Mrs J Curran, 103 Hamilton Road (via email)