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14 February 2019

Ms S Hughes
Flat 7
11 Eldon Square
Reading
RG1 4DP

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Ms Hughes

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO THREE ASH TREES AT 11 ELDON SQUARE, READING -
SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for your Notification of 12 January 2019 regarding the above.

Further to my site visit of 13 February 2019, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- Fell one Ash tree (your tree 1) and reduce two Ash trees (your trees 2 & 3) by 70%

Whilst prominent trees when viewed from the rear, which appear to be in a healthy condition, they are not worthy of a TPO due to their proximity to neighbouring structures and position on raised ground, the make-up of which is not certain.

However, whilst not worthy of a TPO, I advised you on concerns about the impact of a 70% reduction on both trees (2 & 3). In arboricultural terms, I would generally take 30% overall crown reduction (if that is what is meant) to be the maximum appropriate for any healthy tree for which long-term survival and retention is desired and then the works would have to be fully justified. I am aware you have raised this concern with the neighbour's insurer.

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

4. Tree work consents on land not owned by the applicant: It is strongly recommended that the owner of the tree be advised of any proposed works. The owner's permission must be sought if the tree works involve work past the boundary line. This consent does not in any way imply that this Council has informed the owner or sought permission or will condone the use of consents to force any landowner to grant such permission.

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