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**Head of Planning, Development
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Mr M Vaughan
4 Seasons Tree Care Ltd
1 Beech Road
Thame
Oxon
OX9 2AL

Our Ref: 182259/TCA
Your Ref:

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

14 February 2019

Your contact
is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr Vaughan

**RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF TWO TREES AT 14 CLIFTON STREET, READING - SUBJECT TO
CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for your Notification of 31 December 2018 notifying us of your intention to fell one Leyland cypress and one Sycamore at the above address.

As indicated in my email of 25 January 2019, an initial site visit from outside the site showed that both trees offer amenity value, being highly visible from Goldsmid Road, contributing to the tree cover in that vicinity. I therefore advised that access to the property was required to assess the cited damage.

You provided me with the contact details for the letting agent who then provided me with contact details for the tenant in order that an internal site visit could be undertaken. Unfortunately I have been unable to make contact with the tenant despite leaving a message and ringing him on a number of occasions, hence a full assessment of the trees has not been possible.

In relation to the Cypress, this could be assessed sufficiently from Goldsmid Road to see its proximity to the neighbour's garage. Given this and that the tree is not of particularly good form and that tree cover in the immediately vicinity is of a broadleaved nature,

there are no objections to the felling of this tree. Please note the informatives below.

However, the Sycamore is a large tree that does contribute to the character of the tree cover in Clifton Street/Goldsmid Road hence a Tree Preservation order was served on 13 February 2019 to protect this tree. A copy with sent to the tenant, owner and letting agent. The aim of the TPO is to protect the tree until such time as we can obtain access to assess the tree and the concerns fully. If it is subsequently agreed that the felling is appropriate, this can be applied for via a tree works application and the TPO will be allowed to lapse after 6 months from the date of service. If, however, we consider a TPO is appropriate long term we would confirm the TPO, subject to the consideration of any objections received.

It would be prudent to discuss the content of this letter with your client as soon as possible. If there is an intention to object to the TPO this may be circumvented by allowing access within the 28 day objection period.

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. 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 letter 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