

Mrs G Baker
54 Hamilton Road
Reading
RG1 5RD

Our Ref: 171583/TCA
Your Ref:

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

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mrs Baker

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT 54 HAMILTON ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your email of 5 September 2017 regarding the above.

During to my site visit of 18 September 2017 we discussed the specific work and I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- Yew tree growing in the rear garden of 50 Hamilton Road – fell
- Lilac tree at the rear of the rear garden – fell
- Holly tree in rear garden – reduce in height to 1-2m above fence height and reshape accordingly
- Horse chestnut in the rear garden of 33 Eastern Avenue – re-pollard back to previous pollard points

In relation to the Horse chestnut, we discussed the previous management of this tree as a pollard. As it has been pollarded before, appropriate management is to re-pollard, back to previous pollard points, on a regular basis – normally every 3-5 years depending on re-growth. This is in order to manage the regrowth so that it does not become crowded or too heavy, resulting in the splitting out of the new growth, given the less structurally sound junctions of this re-growth compared with an ordinary branch junction. Once a tree has been pollarded, it should be managed for its lifespan to avoid potential issues.

Re-pollarding is a significant tree pruning operation and can be detrimental to the health of a tree if carried out at the wrong time of year (see informative 3 below). It is best carried out late summer (late July-August) or when the tree is dormant in December-January to minimise the impact on the long-term health of the tree.

The works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 16 October 2017.

This decision is valid for two years from the date of this letter, after which it lapses.

Any works past your boundary line to neighbouring trees will require the tree owner's permission and in any case it is advisable to notify them of your intentions to prune their tree.

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
Natural Environment Officer