



Mr J Smith
Big Heart Tree Care Ltd
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Emma Gee
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23rd May 2024

Your contact is: Andrei Nazare, Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Smith,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO FOUR TREES AND FELLING OF ONE APPLE TREE AT 7 ALEXANDRA ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your notification of 9th April 2024, regarding the above and apologies for the delayed response.

Further to your notification and accompanying annotated photographs, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- T1 Hazel - coppice to 4ft above ground level.
- T2 Bay - cut back to boundary.
- T3 Apple - fell and stump ground out.
- T4 Hazel - reduce to top of fence.
- T5 Hazel - remove 1 branch.

The reason you give for the proposed high coppicing of T1 and T4 Hazel trees is that they are 'too close to the wall'. Hazel trees respond well to this type of reduction. I assume you are aware that the remaining trunks (and roots) will continue to increase in size (diameter-wise), which might not entirely address the conflict with the wall. Your client should monitor their growth for signs of pushing against the wall in the future.

With regards to the proposed felling of the Apple tree, you state the reason is the declining condition of the tree and presence of large decay pockets. Aesthetics is the reason stated for the reduction back to boundary of T2 Bay tree and the branch removal from T5 Hazel.

None of the 5 trees are suitable for inclusion in a Tree Preservation Order, hence the Council have no objections to the proposed works.

In order to mitigate the impact of climate change, maintain or increase canopy cover throughout the borough (one aim of our adopted Tree Strategy), reduce air pollution and heat islanding effects, and to maintain the character of the verdant conservation area, the council encourages replacement planting for all lost trees. This is especially important in high priority areas, of which conservation areas are one. By provisioning, voluntarily, replacement planting for the removed Apple tree, your client secures the availability of a healthy tree stock for the future. However, please advise them to choose the right tree for the available space (in terms of species ultimate size) and to plant any replacements at least 1m away from brick walls.

As the 6-weeks notification period lapsed on 21st May 2024, the agreed works can now go ahead as soon as they can be arranged.

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,

Andrei Nazare

Andrei Nazare
Assistant Natural Environment Officer
On behalf of Sarah Hanson, Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Mrs L Blais, 7 Alexandra Road (via e-mail)