



Dr O Perks
10 Alexandra Road
Reading
RG1 5PD

Emma Gee
Acting Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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

Our Ref: 240665/TCA
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 374294
Email: andrei.nazare@reading.gov.uk

27th June 2024

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

Dear Dr Perks,

RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE BIRCH TREE AT 10 ALEXANDRA ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your notification of 23rd May 2024, regarding the above.

Further to your notification and accompanying photograph and location plan, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following tree work:

- 1x Birch tree in rear garden - fell to ground

You state the main reason for removing the tree is its proximity to the house. Specifically, you said the drains had to be re-laid due to root penetration from the tree and, during those works, it was discovered roots are also penetrating the house wall.

The tree is a well-formed specimen of Birch, looking healthy; hence, good root development is expected. While not an ideal situation, trees that grow this close to buildings can be retained and any conflict with hard structures can be mitigated. Tree roots will not seek, penetrate and clog drains if they are not already leaking. Root barriers can be installed to protect walls/foundations. In addition, tree crowns can be managed for size and clearance to the building.

However, the layout of the house and rear garden in relation to the tree, together with extensive tree vegetation in the rear garden and at neighbouring gardens, means the tree is not visible from the public space or from many (if any) neighbouring properties, therefore it is not suitable for inclusion in a Tree Preservation Order and the Council does not raise any objections to the proposed felling.

I note you intend to plant new trees to replace the lost amenity, which is positive. 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 Birch tree, you secure the availability of a healthy tree stock for the future. However, you should choose the right tree for the available space (in terms of species ultimate size) and to plant any replacements at least 1m away from any fences or boundary walls.

The agreed felling can now go ahead as soon as it 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