



Ms A Blake
21 Montague Street
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RG1 4JH

Emma Gee
Acting Executive Director for
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Your Ref:

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2nd May 2024

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

Dear Ms Blake,

RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE ASH TREE AT 21 MONTAGUE STREET, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your notification of 21st March 2024, regarding the above.

Further to your notification and accompanying photographs as well as to your 21st March 2024 e-mail exchange with my colleague Sarah Hanson, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- 1x Ash tree - fell to ground

You state a tree surgeon inspected the tree and subsequently advised removal due to Ash dieback disease. However, when my colleague asked about the symptoms noted by the tree surgeon, you said they didn't provide any.

From the submitted photographs is not possible to ascertain with 100% accuracy whether the tree does suffer from Ash dieback. However, it is obvious there is dieback in the crown and that Ivy has overgrown the tree. Due to its poor condition, the tree is not suitable for inclusion in a Tree Preservation Order, therefore its felling is agreeable.

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 tree, you secure the availability of a healthy tree stock for the future. However, it is advisable to choose the right tree for the available space (in terms of species ultimate size) and plant it at least 1m away from brick 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