

Mr A Walsh
Artemis Tree Services
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Emma Gee
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Your Ref:

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15th August 2024

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

Dear Mr Walsh,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE PORTUGUESE LAUREL TREE AND ONE NORWAY MAPLE TREE AT FLAT 4, CAREY STREET, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your notification of 5th July 2024, regarding the above.

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

- 1x Portuguese Laurel tree (T1) - fell to ground level
- 1x Norway maple tree (T2) - crown reduce by removing between 1.5-2m from the height and between 1-1.5m from the sides

It appears the tree IDs (T1, T2) are marked the other way around on the submitted Location Plan compared with the Work Order. This letter refers to the IDs as are noted on the Work Order.

You state the reason for felling the Portuguese Laurel tree is '*as clients wishes, potential for subsidence due to close proximity*'. With regards to the tree's overall size and proximity to the buildings, it should be noted that Portuguese Laurel can be kept small through regular pruning and maintenance. This directly addresses the above-ground size concerns and also indirectly any root development concerns as the tree won't develop roots larger than it needs to sustain its size. With regards to 'potential for subsidence', the minimum evidence required to consider such risk is to establish the type of soil - tree related subsidence only occurs in soils with a high clay content. I note no reference to such evidence is mentioned. However, I do acknowledge the recurring costs associated with managing the tree for size in the future, hence, on balance, we raise no objection to the proposed removal.

The proposed reduction of the Norway Maple in order to contain the size of the tree is considered reasonable maintenance and is, as such, 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 Portuguese Laurel tree, your client secures the availability of a healthy tree stock for the future. However, they 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 structures or boundary walls.

The agreed works can 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

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,

Andrei Nazare

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

C.c. Gosia Gubanska-Kolanczyk (via e-mail)