



Ms Y Armstrong
1 Poplar Avenue
Tilehurst
Reading
RG30 4JH

Emma Gee
Acting Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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

Our Ref: PL/24/1037
Your Ref:

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

2 September 2024

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Ms Armstrong

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT 1 & 3 POPLAR AVENUE, TILEHURST, READING -
SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 1 August 2024, relating to the above, submitted on behalf of yourself and your neighbour at No. 3.

During our meeting of 22 August 2024, with Ms Davidson from No. 3, we discussed and agreed the works to the various trees in order to alleviate the concerns raised about safety, light and proximity to the cottages.

The Cherry and Apple tree in the garden of No. 1 are in suboptimal condition; the Cherry looking particularly stressed with all foliage having wilted and gone brown. Maximum works are agreed below, however, as discussed, you are able to carry out lesser works if you wished - in relation to the Cherry I understand this may be retention with a view to reviewing its condition next year.

In relation to the trees at number 3, these include much larger trees, and those in close proximity to the property. The multi-stem Sycamore is the most dominating tree, and a significant reduction of this tree is reasonable, being mindful (as advised) that repeat reductions will be required to manage the weight of the regrowth and any large wounds produced will be prone to decay. The adjacent, mature conifer (stated as a Fir in the Notice) is growing at the top of the narrow bank and is of poor form, being multi-stemmed from low down, mostly likely as a result of historic pruning - both these factors make it unsuitable for inclusion in a Tree Preservation Order, hence felling is agreeable. Immediately behind the rear (northern) boundary is a young Ash in poor condition, whose

felling is reasonable (subject to owner approval). Also, just behind the rear boundary is a Lime tree whose canopy is low over the rear outdoor area of the cottage, hence crown lifting is reasonable to allow more light under the canopy (obtaining owner approval if past the boundary line). Behind the boundary also sits a group of Sycamore, whose reduction is desired. Lastly, we discussed the Willow in the front garden and pruning to alleviate weight of the crown and reduce suppression of the Cherry at No. 1.

I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

No.1 Poplar Avenue:

- Cherry - fell,
- Apple - reduce by 30%; remove one (smaller) stem growing over the garden of No. 3

No. 3 Poplar Avenue

- Sycamore adjacent to the cottage - reduce height by one third; remove or reduce lower branches over the cottage for clearance and reshape to form a flowing crown line,
- Conifer (adjacent to Sycamore) - fell,
- Ash behind rear boundary - fell,
- Lime behind rear boundary - crown lift by removing lower, minor branches back to the boundary and removing other secondary and tertiary branches through 360° to 2-3m above fence height; selective branch reduction to give 2m clearance from any part of the cottage,
- Sycamore group behind rear (north) boundary on adjacent land - reduce height by one third and re-shape to form a flowing crown line; prune branches overhanging 1 & 3 Poplar Avenue back to the boundary.
- Willow in front garden - reduce height by one third and reshape; crown lift to 3-4m include removal of one main, low branch growing over the Cherry tree at No. 1

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

The works can now be carried out.

Informatives

1. 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

2. Removal of dead or dangerous wood: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. However you are encouraged to give 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', please give notice to the Council 'as soon as practicable after the works become necessary'.

3. Tree work consents on land not owned by the applicant: It is strongly recommended that the owner of the tree be advised of any proposed works. The owner's permission must be sought if the tree works involve work past the boundary line. This consent does not in any way imply that this Council has informed the owner of sought permission or will condone the use of consents to force any landowner to grant such permission.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Karen Davidson, 3 Poplar Avenue