



Mr M Clive
Beechwood Tree Care Ltd
2 Playhatch Farm Cottages
Playhatch
RG4 9QX

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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Our Ref: PL/26/0398
Your Ref:

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1st May 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Clive

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. PEAR TREE AT 86 LONDON STREET, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 25th March 2026, relating to the above.

For context, 86 London Street is both within a Conservation Area and is a Grade II Listed Building. It is a relatively rare property along this road as one with green space at the rear, hence contributing to the softening of the locality. The property is also located within an Air Quality Management Area, where trees will help to improve air quality.

The reasons for felling the tree are cited in your application form as '*Client has severe allergies. Also unstable ground with large holes around base*'. I appreciate that allergies can impact the quality of life for some residents, but it is hoped that alternatives to felling have been considered first, prior to it being put forward as a resolution. As you will know, trees help mitigate the impacts of climate change and the felling of trees within Conservation Areas and Air Quality Management Areas is always unfortunate as these are priority areas for tree retention and replanting within our adopted Tree Strategy.

The tree has limited amenity value from the main road of London Street, a designated 'treed corridor', albeit it is visible from adjacent Church Street. Due to the limited amenity value, it is not considered worthy of a Tree Preservation Order, so the Council can not object to the felling. However, given the above, replacement replanting is strongly encouraged.

I note from the photographs submitted alongside your notice that artificial grass has been laid around the base of the tree. The use of artificial grass is not ideal, as there are

several environmental issues linked with its use and the use of such material both detracts from the property's historical character and the natural verdancy of Conservation Areas.

I appreciate from the photographs there are holes in the ground, the reason for which is unclear, but you have not specifically expressed concern about the tree's stability. Artificial grass is also known to have a negative impact to tree health and if replanting is considered, the removal of this turf would be beneficial, at least for an area around the new tree.

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

- 1no. Pear tree: fell to ground level

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

The works can now be carried out.

Regarding the replanting, whilst I appreciate that your client has allergies, there are several species of tree that have low allergenic potential. For the reasons given above, I hope replanting is considered and I would be happy to provide advise on suitable replacement species.

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'.

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

Yours sincerely

Amy Daly

Assistant Natural Environment Officer

On Behalf of Sarah Hanson, Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Ms Chhetri, 86 London Street