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6th July 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mrs Dyer

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. SILVER BIRCH TREE, 2NO. HIMALAYAN BIRCH TREES, 1NO. SYCAMORE TREE AND 1NO. MAPLE TREE AT 1 CHANDLER CLOSE, TILEHURST, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 1st June 2026, relating to the above.

My colleague Sarah Hanson and I met with your husband to discuss the proposed works. A visit was required as the works proposed were significant and we wanted to advise you of the implications of that, both in terms of the impact to tree health and in the view of the future management of the trees.

We agreed that the works to the Sycamore tree on the frontage were reasonable. The tree is of sub-optimal form, particularly with regards to the union between the two main stems, with its main trunk leaning towards the neighbouring property's boundary wall. As Sycamore trees have a large ultimate size potential, given it's setting, to manage its size we agreed the pollarding would be reasonable. We advised that you take your tree surgeons advice as to where suitable pollard points would be, with managing the weight load on said union in mind. We also advised crown lifting over the neighbouring property's outbuilding to create clearance would also be prudent as the branches are touching the roof, hence these have been included in the agreed works.

The felling of the Himalayan Birch on the frontage is agreed due to it being dead. As the tree is dead and within a Conservation Area, under Section 213 (1) of the Town and County Planning Act, a landowner has the duty to replant a replacement tree. If you wish to request that we waive this duty, please email us with reasons within 21 days of the date of this letter.

The original works to the Maple raised some concern about the impact on the tree's health and appearance. Originally, a significant height and lateral reduction was proposed. Your husband expressed that he didn't want the tree to get any bigger/taller. We advised that a Maple of this species wouldn't reach much taller in height than at the time of our visit, and such a significant reduction would encourage the rapid regeneration of new growth, which will be weakly attached and then requires repeat, ongoing pruning to contain its size. We also advised that this species does not resist decay well and it would substantially impact the tree's health. We came to an agreement that crown lifting and tip reducing the branches over the driveway to create clearance was reasonable as an alternative, and these are detailed in the works below.

The Himalayan Birch in the rear garden originally was proposed for a '*trim*', with the annotated photograph provided indicating an overall crown reduction. We couldn't fully understand the purpose of the works; it doesn't cast significant shade and reducing it was advised against due to the resulting future maintenance burden and impact on the tree's health & appearance - the tree is currently young and of good form. We came to an agreement that crown lifting the tree would somewhat improve light availability, as an alternative, as further ground clearance will be created which we consider reasonable works given how low the branches currently are. As part of the crown lift, we agreed 1no. main branch could be removed back to source, along with other minor/small diameter branches, which are shown within the annotated photographs below.

The Silver Birch in the rear garden had a significant height reduction proposed, effectively topping it, removing more than one third of the tree's height. We strongly advised against this as Silver Birch are a species that do not resist decay well and the tree would unlikely respond well to this. It would also significantly impact the aesthetic value of the tree, and any new growth would be weakly attached and would require ongoing, repeat pruning to manage its weight. We came to an agreement the tree would be crown lifted over the garden for clearance purposes instead, and that as the tree's ultimate size is a concern, we would be happy to assess further works in the future. We advised a sensitive reduction in the future would help manage its size and would be significantly less impactful to the tree's health than that originally proposed.

I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work with reference to the annotated photographs below:

- Sycamore (front garden): pollard at suitable pollard points; crown lift to create 0.5-1m clearance above the outbuilding in the neighbouring property (see Figure 1).
- Himalayan Birch (front garden): fell to ground level (see Figure 2).
- Maple (front garden): tip reduce branches growing towards the driveway, as shown in Figure 2; crown lift over the driveway to create approximately 2.5-3m clearance above ground level as shown in Figure 2.
- Himalayan Birch (rear garden): crown lift, through 360°, to approximately 2.5m-3m above ground level (see Figure 3), including the removal of 1no. main branch back to source (see Figure 4) and other small diameter/minor growth back to source (see examples in Figure 5).

- Silver Birch (rear garden): crown lift over the garden to approximately 2.5m-3m above ground level (see Figure 6).



Figure 1: Sycamore - crown lift over the roof of the outbuilding in the neighbouring property

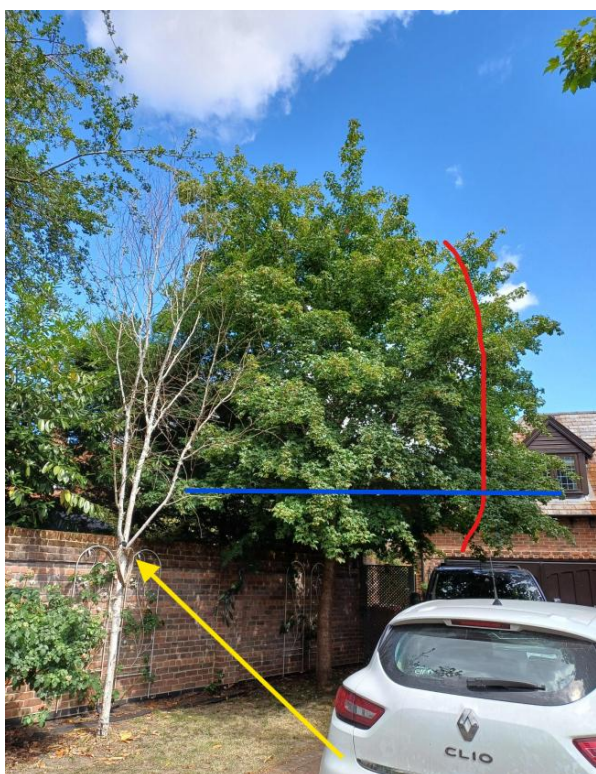


Figure 2: Himalayan Birch - fell (yellow arrow); Maple - crown lift (blue line) & tip reduction (red curve)



Figure 3: Himialyan Birch - crown lift

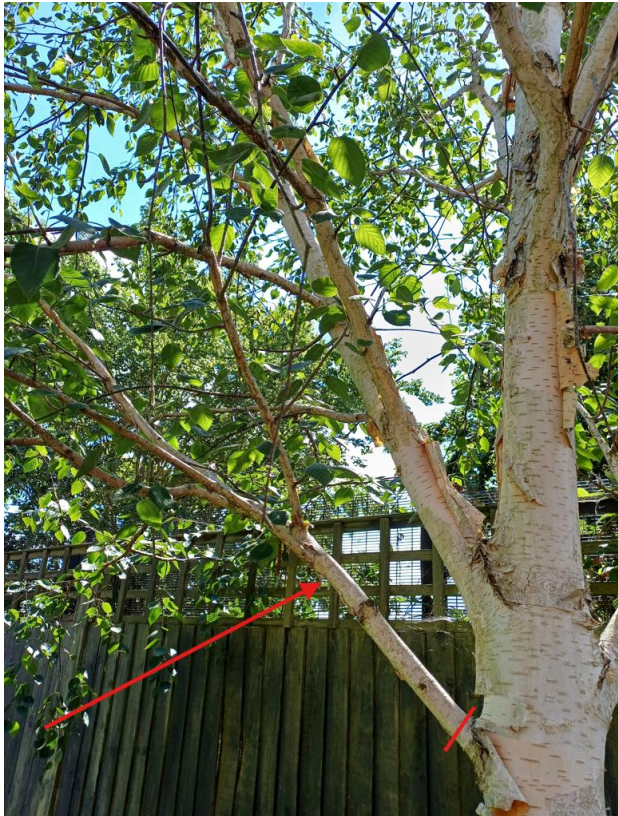


Figure 4: Himialyan Birch - 1no. main branch to be removed back to source as part of crown lift

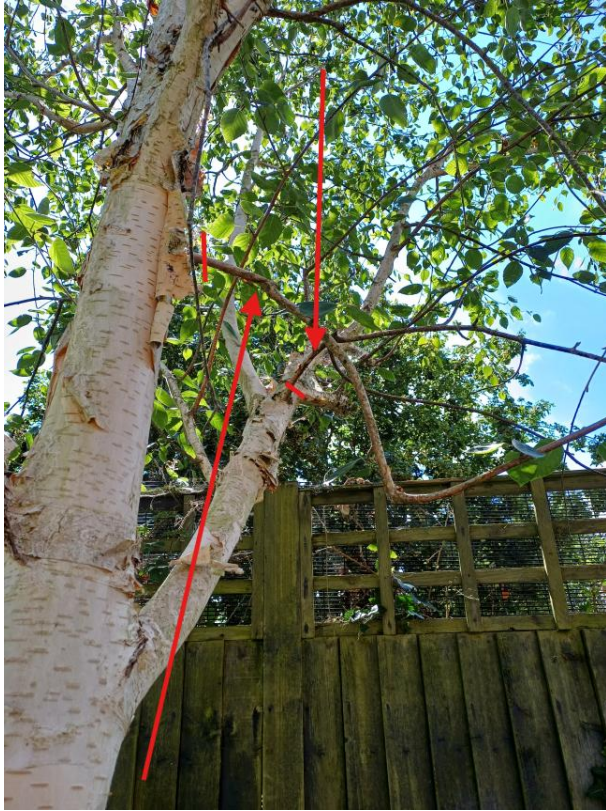


Figure 5: Himalayan Birch - examples of minor/small diameter growth to be removed back to source as part of crown lift



Figure 6: Silver Birch - crown lift to approximately 2.5m-3m above 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.

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. 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

Amy Daly

Assistant Natural Environment Officer

On Behalf of Sarah Hanson, Natural Environment Officer