

Independent Tree Panel for Sheffield

Simon Green
Executive Director of Place
Sheffield City Council

By email

1 June 2016

Dear Simon

Furniss Avenue

The Independent Tree Panel has reviewed the Council's plan for 23 trees on Furniss Avenue. We have taken into the account the technical information provided by the Council and the concerns raised by residents in their response to the household survey. We inspected the trees on 29 January 2016 and 5 February 2016, and re-inspected two trees on 31 May 2016. We have referred to the engineering solutions, as presented to the Highway Tree Advisory Forum on 2 September [2015] which are referred to in section 3.2 of the Streets Ahead Five Year Management Strategy 2012 – 2017 dated January 2016.

Household survey

The 23 trees you propose to remove and replace are spaced along the full length of the street. There are numerous other trees on the street. There are 133 households on Furniss Avenue. Six responded to the survey, of which five objected to the proposed removal and replacement of the trees. This is a low response rate.

Trees already removed

11 of the 23 trees have already been removed, of which some have been replaced. One respondent to the survey expressed understandable concern about this, as it appears the trees may have been removed and replaced after the survey was issued. We advise that the Council should take steps to prevent this happening again.

Trees which are diseased or damaged

Eight of the remaining 13 trees are significantly diseased or damaged. Whilst they all have some remaining life expectancy, we advise that it would be prudent to remove and replace these trees. These trees are those outside house numbers 24, 34, 43-45, 58, 110, 114, 131 and 132.

The tree outside 34 presents some immediate risk, and therefore advise that it should be removed immediately.

We noted that the tree outside number 26, that had not been referred to us, is significantly diseased or damaged. We advise that it would be prudent to remove and replace this tree.

Trees which are healthy

The other four trees (those outside numbers 6, 40, 112 and 118) are mature cherries, in good condition, with 10 to 20 years life expectancy. We advise that there is no arboricultural need to remove these trees.

We have therefore considered whether there are engineering solutions that would prevent the need for removal and replacement of the remaining five trees. The trees are causing some damage and disruption to the pavement. In several cases the pavement has been previously patched. We could see no damage to boundary walls, save for some damage to the boundary wall of number 112, which we believe may be caused by a privet hedge in the garden.

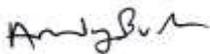
The tree outside number 118 is causing a significant trip hazard. We do not believe this hazard could be readily resolved, and therefore advise that the Council would be justified in removing and replacing this tree.

We believe that it may be feasible to retain three of the trees (those outside 6, 40 and 112) and renew the pavement by a combination of root pruning and excavation beneath the roots (solutions 8 and 10). This would require excavation, the removal of soil and other material, the selective pruning of roots, depressing the remaining roots and replacing the soil and other material, all to industry standards.

We therefore advise that the Council could reconsider the plan for these three trees. We recognise that in considering this advice the Council will take into account the low response rate to the household survey, with only five of 133 households objecting to your plans. We recognise that the Council may also wish to bear in mind that all the other trees on this street will have been replaced.

I have enclosed a tabulated summary of our conclusions.

Yours sincerely



Andy Buck
Chair

Copy:
Dave Caulfield
Andrew Walshaw
Independent Tree Panel members

Fell Ref	Tree Position	Road	Existing Tree	Already removed	Dead, diseased, damaged - remove	Damaging - remove	Damaging - alternative solution	No identifiable issue
12019823	O/S 93	FURNISS AVENUE	Sorbus aucuparia sp	YES				
12019813	O/S 76	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan	YES				
12021066	O/S 110	FURNISS AVENUE	Sorbus aucuparia		YES			
12024305	O/S 112	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus padus				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019815	O/S 114	FURNISS AVENUE	Sorbus aucuparia sp		YES			
12019817	O/S 118	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan			YES		
12019819	O/S 132	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan		YES			
12019805	O/S 24	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan		YES			
12019827	O/S 57-59	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan	YES				
12019825	O/S 83	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan	YES				
12019811	O/S 58	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan		YES			
12019809	O/S 40	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019801	O/S 6	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019833	O/S 17	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan	YES				
12019831	O/S 29	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan	YES				
12011449	O/S 49	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan	YES				
12010182	O/S 43-45	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan		YES			
12019829	O/S 35-37	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan	YES				

12010192	O/S 92	FURNISS AVENUE	Sorbus aucuparia sp	YES				
12019807	O/S 34	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan		YES			
12010194	O/S 98- 98a	FURNISS AVENUE	Sorbus aucuparia sp	YES				
12019821	O/S 131	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan		YES			
12019803	O/S 12	FURNISS AVENUE	Prunus Kanzan	YES				