

Independent Tree Panel for Sheffield

Simon Green
Executive Director of Place
Sheffield City Council

By email

16 May 2016

Dear Simon

Vernon Road

The Independent Tree Panel has reviewed the Council's plan for one tree on Vernon Road. 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 tree on 28 January 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 one tree you propose to remove and replace close to the junction with Chatsworth Road. There are 50 households on Vernon Road. Eight responded to the survey, of which five objected to the proposed removal and replacement of the tree. Whilst this is not a high response rate, this is perhaps unsurprising given that there is just one tree under consideration which is at one end of the street.

Tree which is healthy

The tree is an oak aged about 150 years. It is a very fine specimen, in excellent condition, with a further 150 years life expectancy. We advise that there is strong arboricultural case for retaining this tree.

We therefore considered engineering solutions for this tree. The tree is causing some disruption to the pavement and kerb. The size of the tree means that the pavement adjacent to the tree is narrow, but not overly so. We could see no damage to boundary walls or property.

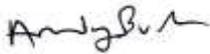
Our view is that it would be possible to build out the kerb line into the carriageway for an appropriate length along the street to accommodate the tree trunk and base, although we recognise that this is one of the “other” engineering solutions not provided for in the Council’s contract with Amey.

Our view is that it would also be possible to substantially mitigate the disruption to the pavement and kerb, in such a way as to allow adequate passage of pedestrians, including those with buggies or using wheelchairs, for example using solutions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10. There is a fully accessible pavement on the opposite side of the road, and several accessible dropped kerbs close by. We recognise that these solutions would result in the line of the kerb being interrupted by the trunk. We have written separately to you about the Council's policy regarding this issue.

We also recognise that there may infrequent future pavement maintenance required, but believe this would be fully justified to retain this tree.

We therefore advise that the Council should reconsider the plan for this tree, with a view to using alternative solutions to permit its retention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Buck". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

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
12019695	O/S 1	VERNON ROAD	Quercus robur				ADVISE CONSIDER	