

Independent Tree Panel for Sheffield

Simon Green
Executive Director of Place
Sheffield City Council

By email

1 June 2016

Dear Simon

Burlington Road

The Independent Tree Panel has reviewed the Council's plan for six trees on Burlington 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 trees on 5 February 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 six trees you propose to remove and replace are spaced between numbers 18 and 50. There are 40 households on Burlington Road. Four responded to the survey, of which two objected to the proposed removal and replacement of the trees. This is a low response rate.

Tree already removed

The tree outside number 18 has already been removed and replaced. We advise that the Council should take steps to prevent this happening again.

Tree outside number 40

We have already written to you with advice about the tree outside number 40.

Tree outside number 21

The tree outside number 21 presented no obvious cause for concern. We believe this may have been mistaken for the tree outside number 23, which we therefore inspected. This tree, a cherry, is in reasonable condition. We advise that there is no arboricultural reason to remove and replace this tree.

We therefore considered the engineering options for this tree. The tree is causing significant damage to the pavement, with at least one exposed root. We advise that given this level of damage the Council would be justified in removing and replacing this tree.

Trees which are healthy

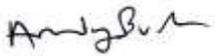
Of the remaining trees, two are those outside numbers 33 and 42 which are cherries, in good condition, with about 10 to 20 years life expectancy. The tree outside number 50 is a crab apple, in good condition and with between 20 and 40 years life expectancy. We advise that there is no arboricultural need to remove these trees.

We have therefore considered whether there are engineering solutions that would prevent the need for removal and replacement of these two trees. The trees are causing some minor damage to the pavement and, in some instances the kerb. We believe that it may be feasible to retain these trees 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 its plans for these four trees. We recognise that in considering this advice the Council will take into account the low response rate to the household survey, with only two of 40 households objecting to the Council's plans.

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
12019907	O/S 18	BURLINGTON ROAD	Crataegus sp	YES				
12019905	O/S 21 nb o/s 23	BURLINGTON ROAD	Prunus sp			YES		
12019903	O/S 33	BURLINGTON ROAD	Prunus serrula				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019911	O/S 42	BURLINGTON ROAD	Prunus serrula				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019909	O/S 40	BURLINGTON ROAD	Prunus serrula			YES		
12019901	opp 50	BURLINGTON ROAD	Prunus sp				ADVISE CONSIDER	