

# Independent Tree Panel for Sheffield

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Simon Green  
Executive Director of Place  
Sheffield City Council

By email

16 May 2016

Dear Simon

## **Chatsworth Road**

The Independent Tree Panel has reviewed the Council's plan for seven trees on Chatsworth 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 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 seven trees that you propose to remove and replace are between numbers 31 and 51. There are five trees between numbers 29 and 45 which were not referred to us. There are 60 households on Chatsworth Road. 19 responded to the survey, of which 15 objected to the proposed removal and replacement of the trees. This is a good response rate.

## **Trees which are healthy**

The trees are all limes in good condition, with 20 to 40 years life expectancy. They are a suitable species for road side trees. We advise that there is no arboricultural need to remove these trees.

We consider that it would, if possible, be desirable to retain these trees, both for the amenity they provide and because this is the preference of most households responding to the survey. We have therefore considered the engineering options for these trees.

The trees are all in open pits, bounded by brick work. The trees are causing disruption to the pavement (which appears to have been laid many years ago) and to some kerb stones. The trees also cause short, steep slopes in the pavement between the kerb and the base of the tree trunks.

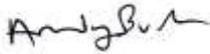
We could not see any disruption to boundary walls or neighbouring property, but understand that Amey may have identified some such disruption. We have received no additional information to confirm this. We advise that the Council should confirm whether there is any damage to neighbouring property prior to making a final decision about these trees.

We consider that it may be possible to retain the trees by using a number of engineering solutions. These would include extended tree pits (solution 12), combination of root pruning and excavation beneath the roots (solutions 8 and 10), permitting some interruption to the continuous kerb line (solution 5) and permitting some very short steep slopes on the pavement between the kerb and the base of the tree trunks.

We advise that, given the amenity provided by these trees and residents' views, the Council should reconsider whether engineering solutions can be used to allow the retention of the trees, although we recognise that this may be complex, may fall outside the terms of the Council's contract with Amey and may have cost implications, all of which the Council will understandably wish to take into account.

I have enclosed a tabulated summary of our conclusions.

Yours sincerely



Andy Buck  
Chair

Copy:  
Dave Caulfield  
Andrew Walshaw  
Independent Tree Panel members

<b>Fell Ref</b>	<b>Tree Position</b>	<b>Road</b>	<b>Existing Tree</b>	<b>Already removed</b>	<b>Dead, diseased, damaged - remove</b>	<b>Damaging - remove</b>	<b>Damaging - alternative solution</b>	<b>No identifiable issue</b>
12019711	O/S 33	CHATSWORTH ROAD	Tilia x europea				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019713	O/S 35	CHATSWORTH ROAD	Tilia x europea				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019719	O/S 49	CHATSWORTH ROAD	Tilia x europea				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019721	O/S 51	CHATSWORTH ROAD	Tilia x europea				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019715	O/S 43	CHATSWORTH ROAD	Tilia x europea				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019717	O/S 47	CHATSWORTH ROAD	Tilia x europea				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019709	O/S 31	CHATSWORTH ROAD	Tilia x europea				ADVISE CONSIDER	