

Independent Tree Panel for Sheffield

Simon Green
Executive Director of Place
Sheffield City Council

By email

16 May 2016

Dear Simon

Devonshire Drive

The Independent Tree Panel has reviewed the Council's plan for four trees on Devonshire Drive. 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

Devonshire Drive is a cul-de-sac with 11 households. One household responded to the survey and objected to the proposed removal and replacement of the trees. This is a low response and concern rate.

Trees already removed

The two outside numbers 4 and 10 have already been removed, albeit with 1.5m stumps left in place, prior to the Panel's review. We advise that the Council should take steps to prevent this happening again.

Trees which are healthy

The remaining two trees, those outside numbers 2 and 12-14 are cherries and are in good condition with 10 to 20 years life expectancy. We advise that there is no arboricultural reason to remove and replace these trees

We therefore considered the engineering options for these trees.

The tree outside number 2 is causing some damage to the pavement. We believe that it may be feasible to retain this tree and renew the pavement by a combination of root pruning and excavation beneath the roots (solutions 8 and 10). This would require excavation, the

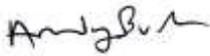
removal of soil and other material, the selective pruning of roots, depressing the remaining roots and replacing the soil and other material, all to industry standards.

The tree outside number 12-14 is causing more serious damage. We believe that it may be feasible to retain this tree 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. Alternatively, given the evidently very low footfall, the pavement could be removed and grassed, or a tree pit established.

We therefore advise that the Council could reconsider the plan for these trees. We recognise that in considering this advice the Council will take into account the response to the household survey, with only one of 11 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
12006903	Facing corner of 4, (o/s 4-6)	DEVONSHIRE DRIVE	Prunus sp	YES				
12019897	OPP 2, (first tree on road, at side of 82)	DEVONSHIRE DRIVE	Prunus serrula				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12006905	O/S 10	DEVONSHIRE DRIVE	Prunus serrula	YES				
12019899	O/S 12-14, between	DEVONSHIRE DRIVE	Prunus serrula				ADVISE CONSIDER	