

Independent Tree Panel for Sheffield

Simon Green
Executive Director of Place
Sheffield City Council

By email

1 June 2016

Dear Simon

The Grove

The Independent Tree Panel has reviewed the Council's plan for seven trees on The Grove. 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 seven trees you propose to remove and replace are evenly spaced between numbers along the street. There are several other trees on the street. There are 66 households on The Grove Road. 11 responded to the survey, of which seven objected to the proposed removal and replacement of the trees.

Tree which is diseased or damaged

The tree outside number 2 is in borderline condition and is causing significant damage to the pavement. We advise that it would be prudent to remove and replace this tree.

The tree outside number 6 has minor decay of its buttress root. It is reported as having pholiota which was not visible at the time of the inspection. If the Council can confirm that this tree is diseased, then we advise that it would be justified in removing and replacing it.

Trees which are healthy

The trees outside numbers 1, 3, 7 and 26 are cherries, are all in good condition and with 10 to 40 years life expectancy. The tree outside number 7 has limb that should be removed. We advise that there is no arboricultural reason to remove and replace these trees.

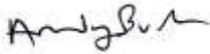
We therefore considered the engineering options for these trees.

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 should reconsider the plan for these trees and should ensure that limb on the tree outside number 7 is removed.

The tree outside number 60 is a mature ash, in good condition and with 10 to 20 years life expectancy. It is in a corner of the end of the cul-de-sac end of the street. The pavement to the left and rear of the tree is stepped and has recently been replaced, with a new drain installed. We believe the tree may not cause any damage to the new pavement or drain, although recognise that we have not been able to carry out a full inspection to establish this, nor have we been privy to information about the engineering work recently undertaken. We therefore advise that there may not be a need to remove and replace this tree, and the Council should take further steps to establish whether this is the case.

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
12019943	O/S 26	THE GROVE	Prunus Kanzan				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019945	O/S 60	THE GROVE	Fraxinus excelsior					YES
12019941	O/S 2	THE GROVE	Prunus Kanzan		YES			
12019951	O/S 1	THE GROVE	Prunus Kanzan				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12024299	O/S 6	THE GROVE	Prunus Kanzan		YES subject to final check		ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019949	O/S 3	THE GROVE	Prunus Kanzan				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019947	O/S 7	THE GROVE	Prunus Kanzan				ADVISE CONSIDER	