

# 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

## **Ashfurlong Close**

The Independent Tree Panel has reviewed the Council's plan for four trees on Ashfurlong Close. 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 four trees you propose to remove and replace are evenly spaced on the street. There are 15 households on Ashfurlong Close. Four responded to the survey, of which three objected to the proposed removal and replacement of the trees.

## **Trees already removed**

Two of the four trees have already been removed and replaced. Respondents to the survey expressed understandable concern about this, as it appears that the trees may have been removed and replaced after the survey was issued. We advise that the Council should take steps to prevent this happening again.

## **Trees which are healthy**

The two remaining trees, those outside 4 and 8, are cherries in good condition and have life expectancy of between 20-40 and 10-20 years respectively. We advise that there is no arboricultural case for their removal and replacement.

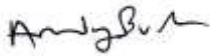
We have therefore considered whether there are engineering solutions that would prevent the need for removal and replacement of these two trees.

The tree outside number 8 is causing significant disruption to the pavement and kerb. We do not consider there to be a readily available engineering solution that would resolve this. We therefore advise that the Council is justified in removing and replacing this tree.

The tree outside number 4 is causing much less significant disruption to the pavement and kerb. There is adjacent damage to the pavement that appears to have been caused by a tree in the nearby garden; this tree was removed some time ago. We consider that it may be possible to retain this tree by root pruning (solution 7), possibly with the use of other solutions as well (for example solutions 1 and 3). We advise that this could be considered, but that it would be reasonable for the Council to remove and replace this tree, thereby completing the replacement of all the trees on this street.

I have enclosed a tabulated summary of our conclusions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Buck', written in a cursive style.

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> |
|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 12019931        | O/S 8                | ASHFURLONG CLOSE | Prunus Kanzan        |                        |   | YES                      |  |                              |
| 12019933        | O/S 9                | ASHFURLONG CLOSE | Prunus Kanzan        | YES                    |   |                          |  |                              |
| 12019927        | O/S 4                | ASHFURLONG CLOSE | Prunus Kanzan        |                        |   |                          | ADVISE CONSIDER                        |                              |
| 12019929        | O/S 6                | ASHFURLONG CLOSE | Prunus Kanzan        | YES                    |   |                          |  |                              |