

Independent Tree Panel for Sheffield

Simon Green
Executive Director of Place
Sheffield City Council

By email

1 June 2016

Dear Simon

Abbeydale Park Rise

The Independent Tree Panel has reviewed the City Council's plans for 19 trees on Abbeydale Park Rise. 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, and re-inspected two trees on 31 May 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 19 trees that you propose to remove and replace are spread along most of the length of the street. There are numerous other trees on the street, including several of the same species as those referred to us, for which removal and replacement is not proposed.

There are 100 households on the street. 30 responded to the household survey, of which 24 objected to the proposed removal and replacement of the trees. We consider this to be a reasonable response rate.

Trees which are diseased or damaged

Six of the 19 trees are significantly diseased or damaged. Whilst they all have some remaining life expectancy, we advise that it would be prudent to remove and replace these trees. These trees are those outside house numbers 9, 20, 38, 51/53, 83 and 95.

Trees which are healthy

The remaining 13 trees are cherries, are in good condition and have life expectancy of between 10 and 20 years. 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 13 trees.

The tree outside number 3 is causing significant disruption to the pavement and kerb, at a particularly steep section of the street. 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.

We believe that it may be feasible to retain the remaining trees (those outside numbers 2, 6-8, 22-24, 30-32, 36, 39, 42-44, 49, 55, 56-58, 64 and 75) 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 believe it may be necessary to utilise other solutions (for example solutions 1, 3 and 4), the need for which would have to be determined whilst work is being undertaken. We recognise, however, that in some instances, an effective engineering solution may not be feasible.

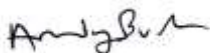
We therefore advise that the Council should reconsider the plan for these trees. We consider that in some instances it may not be possible to reach a final decision until the excavation of a tree is undertaken (solution 2), which would therefore need to be scheduled with the works to the road and pavement. We therefore advise that the Council may wish to put in place control measures to ensure that the contractor does not proceed with removal and replacement when an alternative engineering option would be feasible and reasonable.

During our inspection of these trees we had several very helpful discussions with residents, who were naturally curious as to who we were. Residents have a mixture of views about the trees, as is evidenced by the response to the household survey. We learned that the trees on the street were originally paid for by residents under a scheme run by the Council some 40 years ago. We spoke to the resident who led this fundraising among the community. Several residents told us that they feel under-informed about the Council's plans, including about the proposed replacement species, notwithstanding the fact that the Council and Amey have held roadshows in the area.

We advise that the Council should consider arranging a further discussion with residents to ensure that they are fully informed about the planned work, including a personal discussion with the resident who raised the original funds for the streets' trees. We also advise that further information be provided to residents about the proposed species for replacement trees, which we understand to be a cherry Prunus Sunset Boulevard.

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
12019850	O/S 2	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019853	O/S 3	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula			YES		
12014486	O/S 9	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula		YES			
12019856	O/S 6-8, between	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12018163	O/S 20	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula		YES			
12019858	O/S 22-24, between	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019860	O/S 30-32, between	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019883	O/S 39	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019872	O/S 95	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Sorbus aucuparia		YES			
12006353	O/S 83	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula		YES			
12019870	O/S 64	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019874	O/S 75	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019862	O/S 36	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019878	O/S 51-53, between	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula		YES			
12019876	O/S 55	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019866	O/S 42-44	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019864	O/S 38	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula		YES			
12019881	O/S 49	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula				ADVISE CONSIDER	
12019868	O/S 56-58, between	ABBEYDALE PARK RISE	Prunus serrula				ADVISE CONSIDER	