

Independent Tree Panel for Sheffield

Simon Green
Executive Director of Place
Sheffield City Council

By email

22 July 2016

Dear Simon

Rustlings Road

The Independent Tree Panel has reviewed the City Council's plans for eight trees on Rustlings 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 1 July 2016, with a subsequent inspection on 14 July 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 eight trees that you propose to remove and replace are spread along 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 103 households on the street. 65 responded to the household survey, of which 59 objected to the proposed removal and replacement of the trees.

The eight trees

The tree adjacent to the junction of Ecclesall Road and the bus stop is in good condition with good life expectancy. The tree occupies a prominent position. There is no arboricultural need to remove and replace this tree. The tree is causing disruption to the pavement and has displaced some kerb stones. Retaining this tree would require excavation of the pavement to determine whether a level pavement could be installed, the marginal re-alignment of the kerb line for a distance of about ten metres and possibly the installation of a tree pit or a grass verge (as appears to have previously been the case). This would therefore require consideration of engineering options, including 2, 12 and 16. However, we recognise that these options may compromise the width and therefore safety of the carriageway, particularly as the tree in question stands immediately after a bus stop. We therefore advise that in considering this, the Council should undertake a swept path analysis

of a bus leaving the bus stop towards Ecclesall Road. We also recognise that the engineering solutions may require additional expenditure. We advise the Council to consider these options.

The tree opposite number 25 is in good condition with good life expectancy. There is no arboricultural need to remove and replace this tree. The tree is causing some disruption to the pavement. It is not causing disruption to the kerb. We believe this could be resolved with engineering solutions, including 3, minor ramping and re-profiling the footway, and 12, the installation of a tree pit, which would extend slightly into the pavement, which would still be amply wide enough for pedestrians. We therefore advise the Council to consider this.

The tree opposite number 37 is showing signs of reduced vitality, with a sparse crown, some deadwood and small leaves. There are fungal fruiting bodies at the base of the tree. The tree may however recover, and so from an arboricultural perspective it would be appropriate to monitor the tree's condition. The tree is not causing any significant, unmanageable damage. We therefore advise the Council to consider whether it would be feasible to monitor this tree, whilst recognising that should this not be possible or should the tree subsequently decline, its removal and replacement would become necessary.

The tree outside number 125 is in good condition with good life expectancy. There is no arboricultural need to remove and replace this tree. The tree has displaced some kerb stones. We believe this could be resolved with engineering solutions, including 1, 7, 9 and 12, the use of thinner profile kerb stones, root pruning, root barriers and tree pits, and repairs to the pavement. We noted that this solution has in the past been used for other trees on this street. We therefore advise the Council to consider this.

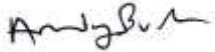
The tree outside number 155 is in good condition with good life expectancy. There is no arboricultural need to remove and replace this tree. However, the tree is causing substantial disruption to the pavement, making it impassable to some people using the pavement. There are several adjacent utility installations. We do not consider there to be engineering solutions that would readily resolve these problems, whilst retaining the tree. We therefore advise that this tree should be removed and replaced.

The tree outside number 175 is in good condition with good life expectancy. There is no arboricultural need to remove and replace this tree. The tree has displaced some kerb stones. We believe this could be resolved with engineering solutions, including 1, 7, 9 and 12, the use of thinner profile kerb stones, root pruning, root barriers and tree pits, and repairs to the pavement. We noted that this solution has in the past been used for other trees on this street. We therefore advise the Council to consider this.

The tree outside number 203 is in good condition with good life expectancy. There is no arboricultural need to remove and replace this tree. It is possible that the tree is causing some damage to the neighbouring boundary wall. Further investigation would be required to determine whether this is the case. The tree has displaced some kerb stones. We believe this could be resolved with engineering solutions, including 1, 7, 9 and 12, the use of thinner profile kerb stones, root pruning, root barriers and tree pits, and repairs to the pavement. We noted that this solution has in the past been used for other trees on this street. We therefore advise the Council to consider this.

The tree outside the park near the pedestrian crossing is in good condition, albeit with minor dieback in the crown, and has good life expectancy. The tree does not show any sign of failure. There is no arboricultural need to remove and replace this tree. The tree is however leaning into the highway at approximately 65 degrees and has we understand been previously struck by vehicles. We advise that road safety considerations justify the removal and replacement of this tree.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Buck". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Andy Buck
Chair

Copy:
Andrew Walshaw
Independent Tree Panel members