



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Cabinet Highways Committee

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Report of: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PLACE

Date: 14 JUNE 2012

Subject: REPORT ON A PETITION REGARDING TREES ON
WILLINGTON ROAD, SHEFFIELD S5

Author of Report: NICK FELLGETT

Summary: A 10 signatory petition has been received from residents of Willington Road regarding concerns about the Highway trees and in particular overhanging branches, lack of sunlight, bird droppings, the cost of washing vehicles and the potential damage to vehicles. The request is to fell the trees or maintain them on a regular basis.

Recommendations: Whilst the trees are large they are in a healthy condition and there are no plans to carry out any maintenance at this time. As part of the Highways Maintenance PFI, commencing in August this year consideration will be given to replacing the trees on Willington Road.

Background Papers:

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES /NO Cleared by:
Legal Implications
YES /NO Cleared by:
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES /NO Cleared by:
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
YES /NO
Human rights Implications
YES /NO:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
YES /NO
Economic impact
YES /NO
Community safety implications
YES /NO
Human resources implications
YES /NO
Property implications
YES /NO
Area(s) affected
North Community Assembly
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader
Councillor Leigh Bramall
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in
Economic & Environmental Well Being Scrutiny Committee
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
YES /NO
Press release
YES /NO

PETITION REGARDING TREES ON
WILLINGTON ROAD, SHEFFIELD S5

1.0 SUMMARY

A 10 signature petition was received on 19 April 2012 from the residents of numbers 31 to 51 Willington Road. They have expressed concern about overhanging tree branches, lack of sunlight, bird droppings, the cost of washing vehicles and potential damage to their vehicles. Their request is as follows:

- To fell the trees or maintain them on a regular basis.

A tree inspection carried out on the 25 April 2012 confirmed that the trees appear to be in a fair overall condition with no immediate safety concerns.

Currently all maintenance work on the 36,000 highway trees in Sheffield is prioritised on a safety basis which in this context relates to the structural integrity of the tree and its potential to fall and cause accident/injury or result in a claim against the Council. Pruning work is not undertaken for reasons of tree size, shade, overhang, leaf/fruit fall, honeydew, bird droppings or the interference of telephone wires, TV or satellite reception.

This is in accordance with the 'Prioritisation Criteria for the Maintenance of Highway Trees' in the Council's Street Maintenance Policy, Standards and Strategy Statement.

As part of the Highway PFI Contract, programmed to commence August 2012, approximately 17,500 highway trees are scheduled to be replaced during the 25 year period of the contract. Amey have been confirmed as the preferred bidder, however their proposed strategy and specific tree replacement program is not yet known.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE PEOPLE OF SHEFFIELD

2.1 As part of the Highway PFI approximately 50% of the highway trees will be replaced during the 25 year contract. This will remove some of the very large highway trees and replace them with more suitable species. This will improve the situation with regard to the issues raised in the petition but will not solve the situation completely.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 No specific issues.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The trees on Willington Road in the petition area are a mixture of mature Lime, Plane and Ash similar to many other residential roads throughout Sheffield.

The Council has received no claims in the past 2 years relating to fallen branches damaging cars or tree related damage to properties or boundary walls on Willington Road.

Street Force has not undertaken any scheduled tree work on Willington Road since 2008. However the land adjacent to the footpath is the responsibility of Sheffield Homes and it is possible that their employees/contractors undertook the work the petitioner has referred to.

5.0 PROGRESS

- 5.1 There is nothing to report

6.0 PROPOSALS

- 6.1 The trees on Willington Road are monitored and any future maintenance work is carried out in accordance with 'The Prioritisation Criteria for the Maintenance of Highway Trees in the Council's Street Maintenance Policy, Standards and Strategy Statement.

Any resident who believes the highway trees to be the cause of damage to their car or property can submit a claim in accordance with Council Policy.

Consideration is given to tree replacement and improved standards of general maintenance to the trees on Willington Road as part of the Highway Maintenance PFI Contract programmed to commence in August this year.

7.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 7.1 There are no public consultation issues arising from this report

8.0 NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 None

9.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report

10.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 10.1 There are no specific equal opportunities arising from this report.

11 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no specific environmental issues arising from this report.

12.0 PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no property implications arising from this report.

13.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Highways Committee approve the proposals in Section 6 of this report which are in accordance with the Council's Street Maintenance Policy, Standards and Strategy Statement.

John Charlton
Director, Street Force

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June 2012

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