



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

AREA PANEL 4
30 MARCH 2005

Report of Director of Development and Cultural Services

Petition – Trees on Willson Avenue

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 A petition of 42 names has been submitted by the lead petitioner, Rena Powell of 22 Willson Avenue, requesting the removal of sycamore trees within Willson Avenue, and replacement planting of a more appropriate species.
- 1.2 She is concerned about the potential for roots to cause damage to footways and properties, leaves and seeds blocking guttering and downspouts, and slippery footways during leaf fall. She states in her petition that a similar procedure to remove trees and replace with an appropriate species has already been carried out in Onslow Road. Mickleover.
- 1.3 The Council's Arboricultural Officer has been consulted and advised that there is little comparison with Onslow Road where the trees were in poor condition and there was a history of branch shedding. There is no history of such problems on Willson Avenue and no reason to think there will be a problem in the foreseeable future. In arboricultural terms, he considers that the trees do not require any work, and whilst removal and replacement may be desirable in the long term, it is not a priority. He has confirmed the tree species as Norway Maple. Following the last Area Panel meeting, the matter has been reconsidered, but the situation remains that replacement of the trees on Willson Avenue is not considered a priority.
- 1.4 All footways in the city are routinely inspected every six months, or more frequently for busier footways. Some evidence of root damage to the footways, in three locations, have already been identified and repairs have been carried out. The footways will continue to be routinely inspected every six months and repairs will be carried out where any damage exceeds intervention levels. Should any resident feel that the roots are damaging their property, they should write to the Insurance Section, Finance Department, Derby City Council, Council House, Corporation Street, Derby, giving an indication of repair costs if possible, in order that consideration may be given to an insurance claim.
- 1.5 Highway trees are considered a valuable asset that enhance the local environment. There can be problems associated with leaf fall during wet conditions, but these are minimised by leaf clearance carried out as and when necessary.

PROPOSED ACTION

- 2.1 None, other than to note the petition, monitor the condition of the trees and the footways, and to clear fallen leaves as necessary.
- 2.2 To write to the lead petitioner concerning the outcome of the petition.

For more information contact: John Edgar 715067 e-mail john.edgar@derby.gov.uk
Background papers: None
List of appendices: Appendix 1- Implications

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS



Financial

- 1.1 None arising from this report.
- 1.2 The cost of removal of the trees and replacement planting is estimated at £10,000.

Legal

- 2.1 None arising from this report..

Personnel



- 3.1 None arising from this report..

Equalities impact

- 4.1 None arising from this report..