

GROWTH & REGENERATION
Management of Place



Decision Report for Highway Tree Removal Proposals

To: Director: Management of Place

Date: 17th September 2025

Highway tree removal proposal:

College Green / Canons Road signals junction refurbishment

Project summary:

The junction refurbishment works include:

- Removing one tree to accommodate the changes to traffic islands and kerb lines, and the planting of three replacement trees at new locations around the junction, made available by the changes.
- Providing better walking and cycling facilities throughout the junction with wider spaces, better crossing points and greater segregation from general traffic.
- Refurbishing the traffic signals with new equipment and infrastructure that will improve road safety for all users, ensuring all equipment is electrically and structurally safe for the next 20 years and reducing the risks of faulty equipment.
- Improving the public realm with higher specification materials, new planting areas, new trees and a resurfaced carriageway.

The removal of the tree is specifically required to enable us to widen the footway and cycleway between the Centre and College Green. The existing footway and cycleway widths here are substandard for such a busy thoroughfare, so the scheme will be widening these to a minimum width of 3.0m each, whilst also providing a 0.6m kerbed buffer strip between the cycle way and carriageway.

These more spacious widths and greater segregation will provide safer and more comfortable routes for all users and help to facilitate future growth in active travel journeys. To achieve this, it is necessary to shorten the existing central reservation on St Augustine's Parade where the tree (*Tilia Cordata* Streetwise, planted in 2017) is located. This will enable traffic to move around the widened footway and cycleway.

We will be exploring options around lifting, root-balling and replanting the tree at an alternative, suitable location, however we will not be able to find out if this is feasible until the works start in this area. Should the tree's root system have grown in a way that is not suitable for replanting then the tree will need to be felled, which is why we are consulting for this possibility. The three new trees that are proposed (*Ginkgo Biloba Fastigiata*) will be planted regardless of whether the existing tree can be replanted.

Consultation

On 23 November 2023, Section 115 of the Environment Act 2021 implemented a statutory duty on local authorities to consult with residents on the felling of street trees where no exemption applies.

This consultation period ran from Friday 15 August 2025 to Friday 12 September 2025 and was advertised on the council website: [Tree management](#)

Notices were also put on the street trees affected and copies of the notices were available at the council offices for the 28 day period.

Consultation Summary

The consultation has now completed, and twelve comments were submitted following the publication of the notice. Of the 12 responses, 7 were in support of the proposal, 3 objected and 2 gave mixed responses.

Consultation Outcome

With the majority of consultation responses supporting the proposal, plus the clear benefits to active travel and the proposed 3 replacement trees, officers remain of the opinion that the proposed tree felling is necessary. Accordingly, it is recommended that the proposals should proceed.

Approvals:

Director: Management of Place



Signature:

Date: 19/09/2025
