GROWTH & REGENERATION
Economy of Place

Decision Report for Highway Tree Removal Proposals

To: Patsy Mellor - Director: Management of Place

Date: 24 November 2026

Highway tree removal proposal:
Filwood Broadway, Knowle West, Bristol

Project summary:
We consulted on proposals to remove 9 Ash trees (that have early onset ash dieback disease) to allow the construction of the Filwood Broadway public space improvements, including the planting of 42 new trees.

Removal of trees:
9 ash trees to be removed

Consultation:
The consultation ran between 14 September and 12 October 2026

Consultation Summary:
The consultation has now completed, and 9 comments were submitted following the publication of the notice.

The comments have been categorised into themes and summarised in the table below:

Theme	Summary of comments	% of responses
Supportive	Makes sense to fell the diseased trees as part of the development works but need to make sure they actually are replaced. Support but would like to see the wood used by local people (in wood burning stoves) Supports the removal of the trees and replacement with multiple species Supportive but concerned the replacement trees may not be maintained. Supportive.	**87%**

	Supportive, stressing the importance of replanting trees Reluctantly supports proposals to remove the trees but questions how well they were maintained previously	
Partially supportive	Support removal of trees for the first phase but wants to see the trees to the south retained until the second phase comes forward	**13%**
Opposed	No outright opposition expressed through the consultation	**0%**

Note: percentages may not add up to 100% as comments can be allocated to more than one theme.

Consultation Outcome

Having considered all comments received and received no objections, of that the proposed tree felling is necessary and it is recommended that the proposals should proceed.

Reasoning

The primary reason for the tree removal is to accommodate major improvements to the road layout and public realm on Filwood Broadway - to create a place that is, safer, more accessible and greener than it currently is (including the planting of 42 new trees).

The secondary reason is removal Early onset of Ash Dieback Disease has been noted on several of the specimens. This disease results in canopy decline which can lead to partial or whole tree failure. The early onset of ash dieback disease is not the primary reason for the proposed removal, however proactive removal of affected trees is considered during project-based work. The majority of respondents supported this rationale.

Bristol City Council is committed to increasing canopy cover across the city. Annually BCC plants many more trees than are removed and have planted over 100,000 trees since 2015 through the One Tree Per Child and Tree Bristol programmes with the aim to increase tree canopy cover to 20% by 2040.

Approvals:

Director: Management of Place – Patsy Mellor

Signature: 

Date: 27 November 2026