

**REPORT FROM: HOUSING, HEALTH AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
MANAGER**

TO: COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

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BLUCHER STREET TREE IN WATERSIDE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform members of the situation regarding a tree outside 12 Blucher Street, Colne, and to try to resolve the issue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee decides if the tree should be removed.
- (2) That if the Committee decides that the tree should be removed, that a maximum of £1,250 be allocated from the Area Committee's capital programme to remove the tree, replace it with a smaller container tree and reinstate the land.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To come to a resolution concerning the tree outside 12 Blucher Street.

BACKGROUND

1. The Engineering Department at Pendle Council undertook a scheme to the build-outs on Blucher Street in 2010. This was done with funding from Elevate for regenerating the area and was a one-off scheme for which funding no longer exists.
2. At the time we asked residents whether they wanted the existing tree outside 12 Blucher Street to remain or be removed.
3. This particular tree was problematic because the roots were directly above a service pipe and so we could not replace it with a smaller tree if it were to be removed. So we asked residents whether they wanted to keep the tree.
4. Residents agreed to keep the tree at the time.

ISSUE

5. Since 2017, a request has been made to remove the tree.
6. This is because the tree has grown; it is not pruned or maintained at all and there is a worry that the roots will affect house foundations. There is also an ongoing problem of leaves falling into guttering and causing blockages.
7. Pendle Council officers and Waterside councillors have visited the site and established that the tree is not unsafe or diseased but agree that it is very large for a street tree and so they sympathise with the resident.
8. However, Waterside councillors are reluctant to remove any trees. This is because a lot of mature trees at the bottom end of Blucher Street were removed as part of the build-out scheme in 2010 and it would leave the street very bare.
9. There is no budget for the removal of the tree.
10. This issue has now been raised with the Office of Andrew Stephenson MP.

PROPOSAL

11. Councillors are considering removing the tree outside 12 Blucher Street and planting a smaller tree in a container to replace it. There may be the option to plant others to replace those that were removed in 2010 to improve the street scene.
12. As there is no funding set aside for the works, this report is submitted to explain the situation and to request funding from the Area Committee's capital programme.
13. The estimated cost for removing the tree outside 12 Blucher Street and reinstating the surface is £500.
14. The estimated cost for the planter including soil, the tree and planting up is £750.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The tree outside 12 Blucher Street is in the highway, which is Lancashire County Council's responsibility. However, Pendle Council completed the build-out scheme in 2010 with LCC's permission and it is therefore Pendle Council's responsibility although there are no funds.

Financial: There is no budget set aside to remove the tree or for additional trees in containers and therefore the funding will need to be allocated from the Area Committee's capital programme if this work is to be carried out.

Legal: We may need to seek permission from LCC Highways to place trees in containers across streets in Waterside.

Risk Management: If agreed, the tree would be removed by a specialist tree contractor.

Health and Safety: The tree is very large but is not dangerous or diseased.

Sustainability: If it is agreed to install trees in containers across Waterside, future maintenance would need to be considered.

Community Safety: None.

Equality and Diversity: None.

APPENDICES None.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS None.