

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)



SURREY

DATE: 8TH JUNE 2015
 LEAD OFFICER: NICK HEALEY, AREA TEAM MANAGER (NE)

SUBJECT: PETITION RESPONSE – PROSPECT ROAD TREES

DIVISION: THE DITTONS

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

A number of dead trees were removed from Prospect Road, Thames Ditton, approximately one year ago.

A petition was received by Committee in February 2015 calling for new trees to be planted to replace those that were removed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

For information only.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Not applicable.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Approximately one year ago a number of dead trees were removed from Prospect Road, Thames Ditton.
- 1.2 In February 2015 Committee received a petition from residents of Prospect Rd, Long Ditton requesting 'that all six trees that have been removed by Surrey County Council be replaced and replanted as soon as possible'.
- 1.3 Prospect Road is a residential cul de sac in Thames Ditton. It has footways on both sides of the road, but no grass verges. On the northeast side of the road the footway is approximately 2.2m wide. On the southwest side of the road the footway is approximately 1.9m wide. The previous trees had been located directly in the asphalt footway surface.
- 1.4 General guidance for tree planting is available on Surrey County Council's website under: *Roads and transport* → *Road permits and licences* → *Planting trees on the highway*

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 Surrey County Council welcomes tree planting in appropriate locations. Normally planting of new trees is restricted to grass verges, which are wide enough to accommodate the tree without risk of damage to the adjacent footway. A grass verge must be wider than 1m to be considered.

2.2 If there is no grass verge available, as is the case in Prospect Road, there must be space for a tree pit of approximately 1m by 1m for any planting of new trees. The footway must be wide enough to accommodate the new tree pit without creating an obstruction for pedestrians.

2.3 For two double buggies or two wheel chairs to pass comfortably, a width of 1.6m is needed. A kerb is 0.1m wide. What this means in practice is that any footway narrower than 2.7m (1m + 1.6m + 0.1m) is too narrow to accommodate new tree pits for planting of new trees.

2.4 The footways in Prospect Road are too narrow to accommodate the necessary tree pits for new tree planting.

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 Not applicable.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

4.1 Not applicable.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Not applicable.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 It is an objective of Surrey Highways to treat all users of the public highway equally and with understanding.

7. LOCALISM:

7.1 Not applicable.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 None.

9. CONCLUSION:

9.1 The footways in Prospect Road are too narrow to accommodate necessary tree pits for new tree planting.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 Not applicable.

Contact Officer: Nick Healey, Area Team Manager (NE)

Consulted: Not applicable

Annexes: None

Sources/background papers: None.

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