

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE:

SUBJECT: PETITION – Nightingale Road, West Molesey, replacement trees

DIVISION: West Molesey

**PETITION DETAILS:**

*A petition has been submitted requesting that there is a change to the tree planting guidelines to enable replanting of trees in Nightingale Road.*

*Over the last few years a number of trees in Nightingale Road, West Molesey have been cut down, culminating in the recent removal of 3 trees at the north end due to a terminal fungal infection. Whilst the residents are willing to cover the cost if other funding is not found, we find ourselves blocked by Surrey Highways tree planting guidelines. These appear to be more suited for major routes, but are being applied in a blanket manner to streets laid out with less generous proportions. The effect of this is that many of the roads in our county which currently have trees stand to lose them without any prospect of replacement, with a long term net effect of de-greening our side streets. Our request is this: We wish to see a policy (or guidelines) and approach adopted in Surrey Highways which makes every effort to provide like for like (or otherwise appropriate) replacements of trees cut down and a replacement of all trees that have been removed from Nightingale Road over the years.*

Lead petitioner: Simon Matic Langford

Number of signatures submitted: 88 on 21 November

**OFFICER COMMENT:**

Nightingale Road is a residential road in West Molesey. It has footways on both sides of the road, but no grass verges. The trees are located in tree pits.

General guidance for tree planting is available on Surrey County Council's website here: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-permits-and-licences/planting-trees-on-the-highway>

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.

If there is no grass verge available, as is the case in Nightingale 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.

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

www.surreycc.gov.uk/elmbridge

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for planting of new trees.

The footways in Nightingale Road vary between 1.92m and 2.10m, and are therefore too narrow to accommodate the necessary tree pits for new tree planting.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Local Committee is asked to note the officer response.

**Contact Officer:**

Nick Healey, Area Highway Manager (NE)

Tel: 0300 200 1003

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