

COMMITTEE: PUTTERIDGE/STOPSLEY AREA COMMITTEE

DATE: 26TH NOVEMBER 2002

SUBJECT: PETITION- LIME TREES LOCATED IN HITCHIN ROAD

REPORT BY: HEAD OF STREET SERVICES

CONTACT OFFICER: BARRY TIMMS 546702

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY	
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT	✓
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS	✓
STAFFING	OTHER	

WARDS AFFECTED: STOPSLEY

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the report is for Members to decide on the appropriate action to be taken in response to a petition from residents living in Hitchin Road regarding tree pruning.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. Putteridge/Stopsley Area Committee Committee is recommended to take no further action other than to instruct the Head of Street Services to ensure that the trees are pruned by 15 to 20% before 31st March 2003

BACKGROUND

3. A petition has been received from a resident in Hitchin Road complaining that :

 "I wish to bring to the above matter to the attention of your department with regards to the trees which are a constant source of frustration. They create a considerable mess throughout the year, not just during the Autumn when leaves fall, this is a problem as you are no doubt aware and is ongoing as leaves, twigs

and dust which is caused by the volume of traffic and washed down when it rains makes a mess of the fabric of residential properties and cars.

This problem is made worse due to the fact that lime trees are a haven for aphids, and secrete a liquid honeydew which when washed down, cars, pavements, buildings, windows and cars left with an awful sticky substance. It is unacceptable along with the problems caused by the other debris from the trees which litters our roads, gutters, drains etc and the offenders must go, or at least be pruned drastically as the canopy is now higher than the houses."

REPORT

4. The trees in Hitchin Road are *Tilia europaea* and are approximately 75 years old. The Council's tree officer has inspected the trees and reports that they are in good health and have safe structure. Lime trees have the habit of dropping debris most of the year and attract aphids in late summer/early autumn, which in turn secretes a sticky material called honeydew.
5. Street trees are pruned on a three yearly cycle to ensure the balance between annoyance to the local residents is kept in balance with the benefits enjoyed by the wider community.
6. Pruning will consist of removing approximately between 15 and 20% of the canopy.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

7. Members may wish to consider a heavier pruning regime as *Tilia* is one tree species that can withstand pruning by up to 40%. The tree's reaction to a heavier pruning regime is to put on extra growth and often this is at the base of the tree and up the trunk. This would require extra material to be removed an extra budget of £500 would be needed.
8. Members may want to consider over a period of 3 years a replacement programme. No budgetary provision is made for this activity and would need extra funding. However it is recommended that before embarking on this course of action a survey is taken from all the 70 houses in the road before a course of action is decided. A further report of that survey would need to be reported to this committee.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The cost of pruning is within the existing budgets for street tree maintenance.

ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

10. Street trees contribute greatly to the environment as they can help lower the carbon emissions levels and act as physical filter for fine particulates.

APPENDIX

[Click here and enter appendix info]

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

[Click here and enter list of background papers]