

Duty to Consult on Street Tree Removal: Consultation

Under Section 115 of the Environment Act 2021, Richmond Council has a Duty to Consult members of the public prior to felling a street tree, this is where an exemption under the Act does not apply.

Notice Date 14/03/2025

Reference DTC007

Ward East Sheen

Site Spencer Gardens SW14 7AH

Position Outside 21

Species Prunus (Cherry)

Reason for tree removal This tree's roots have grown onto neighbouring property and risk damage to the boundary wall. Regrettably, we are unable to prune the tree roots without making it unhealthy or unstable. We also are unable to install a root barrier in a residential street due to the number of underground pipes and cables that run into properties, as these break the barrier and allow roots to grow through again.

The way forward A sustainable option is proposed which involves the removal of the tree and resurfacing the pavement to make it a flat surface. A new tree will then be planted into a constructed tree pit that contains a root deflector designed to direct roots downwards and minimise the risk of similar damage occurring in future.

Council tree experts and highways engineers assess every tree and footway individually, with tree retention always our first priority. This enables the majority of Street Trees to be retained. Very occasionally, we reluctantly must remove a tree that is causing damage, where an engineering solution that retains the tree and maintains the footway in a safe condition for all, is not workable.

Consultation period & process A consultation opened on **14/03/2025** and will close after 28 days on **11/04/2025**. This allows members of the public to submit comments for the Council's consideration.

Once the consultation period has closed the Council will consider the responses and make a final decision whether to remove this tree. The decision will be made clear in a notice that will be published and attached to this tree and will remain in place for 28 days thereafter. Please note that any tree removed will be replaced in accordance with our adopted tree management policy: richmond.gov.uk/media/sbgcak2l/tree_policy.pdf.

This duty does not apply to all trees that the Council manages as there are exemptions in place, including for the removal of trees deemed to be dangerous or trees that are on the classified road network or within parks and open spaces. A comprehensive schedule of the exemptions is available within the Government Guidance: <https://www.theihe.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Duty-to-Consult-Guidance-for-Local-Authorities-FINAL.pdf>

If you wish to submit any comments you can do so by contacting us:

By Email: Trees&parks@Richmond.gov.uk

Tree Section
Parks & Open Spaces
Civic Centre
44 York Street
Twickenham, TW2 7PU

For more information on Richmond's Duty to Consult on Street Tree removal, please scan this QR code.



Image 1: Street tree outside 21 Spencer Gardens



Image 2: Surface tree roots, wall, footway & kerb damage



Image 3: Surface tree roots, wall & footway damage

