

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 01/05/2025

Reference DTC010

Ward Kew

Site Bushwood Road

Position Outside 18

Species Robinia (Black locust)

Reason for tree removal This tree's roots have caused substantial damage to the footway & kerb causing a significant trip hazard and limiting accessibility for people with disabilities or mobility issues. Unfortunately, this cannot be remedied by pruning of roots, without seriously harming the tree's health and stability, thereby rendering it unstable and a hazard to the public.

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 **Thursday 1st May 2025** and will close after 28 days on **Thursday 29th May 2025**. This allows members of the public to submit any objections or supporting comments for the Council's consideration.

Once the consultation period has closed the Council will consider the responses and make a final decision on tree removal. 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.

Note that this Duty does not apply to all trees that the Council manages. There are exemptions in place, including for the removal of trees deemed to be dangerous or trees on a classified road network or within parks and open spaces. More information on these exceptions 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:

Via our Website: https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/trees

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 and scroll to the bottom of the webpage.



Image 1: Robinia in street



Image 2: Extensive damage to footway East



Image 3: Extensive damage to footway West



Image 4: deflection of footway upwards by tree roots

