

Consultation to remove street trees at Haskell Street, Grange Street and East Street Walsall

Consultation end date 16th December 2024

The Council received two responses to its consultation regarding the removal of highway trees from Haskell Street, Grange Street and East Street Walsall. The sentiment of both responses was against the removal of the trees and these concerns were duly noted.

In response to these objections, the Council confirmed that all of the trees were inspected jointly by the Council's Arboricultural Surveyor and Highway Asset Manager. These were in depth inspections looking at each individual tree, having regard to the health and vitality of the tree and also any proven damage to properties. Of particular concern was the impact of reduced footway widths that the trees are causing for people with mobility issues, and the damage being caused to the public highway. Every effort is made to retain highway trees, and the Council will always explore if there are any alternative practical engineering solutions, however in this instance site constraints make this an unfeasible option.

Walsall Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions and tree removal is always a last resort. In mitigation for the removal of these trees, Walsall Council will be planting a new tree for each one that is removed, and we shall aim to do this in as close to the original locations as possible. The replacement trees will be Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). This particular species of tree has been used for similar replacement planting schemes locally to this site and are well suited to these conditions.

Walsall Council

31.01.25