

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 Tuesday 26/08/2025

Reference DTC003

Ward Hampton

Site Church Street TW12 2EB

Position Outside 25

Species London Plane (Platanus acerifolia)

Reason for tree removal This is a young tree has regrown from a stump but has weak, low forks that both block the footway and have a high risk of splitting out. It has also caused considerable damage to the footway for its size. Regrettably, we are unable to prune and reshape this tree to rectify these faults.

The way forward A sustainable option is proposed which involves the removal of the tree, reprofiling of the pavement to make it a flat surface and replacement tree planting into a bespoke tree pit that contains a root deflector designed to direct roots downwards and minimise the risk of similar damage occurring in future.

Council Arboriculturists and Highways Engineers carefully assess and evaluate every tree on a case-by-case basis, with tree retention always being our first priority. This approach enables the overwhelming majority of Street Trees to be retained. Unfortunately, in a small number of cases where an engineering solution is not viable. It is not possible to retain a particular tree in a safe and stable condition, without compromising public safety and the integrity of the public highway/footway.

Consultation period & process A consultation opened on **Tuesday 26/08/2025** and will close after 28 days on **Tuesday 23/09/2025**. 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 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.

(Note that 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 are 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 comments outlining an objection or support for the proposed tree removal, you can do so by contacting our consultation webpage at: <https://haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/richmondcecs/richmondst-25/> or scanning the QR code in the bottom right-hand corner of this notice.

For more information on how we manage and plant our trees, please visit our website:

www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/trees or contact us at: Trees@Richmond.gov.uk.

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



Image 1:



Image 2:



Image 3:

