

Date: 20th December 2024

My Ref: Chester Street Trees

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposed Removal of Trees at Chester Street / Smithfield Road - Decision

On the 30th November 2023, Section 115 of the Environment Act 2021 became a statutory duty that all local authorities in England were required to implement.

The duty requires local authorities to consult with local residents on the felling of street trees where no exemptions apply.

Examples of these exemptions are:

- Trees that are dead or subject to a Plant Health Act 1967 Notice,
- Those that require removing to implement a valid planning consent;
- Trees that are dangerous or likely to become dangerous prior to the next scheduled inspection;
- Trees needing to be removed so that a statutory undertaker may undertake emergency operational works.

The Consultation:

Proposed removal of trees at Chester Street/Smithfield Road, Shrewsbury

Species: Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)

Number of trees: Two

Site Name: Chester Street, Shrewsbury

Date of Notice: 19th November 2024



Reason For removal: The proposal, as consulted, was to remove 2 (field maple) trees at the Chester Street / Smithfield Road junction, one of them located outside the Castle Pointe building and one located outside the H2O building.

The removal of these trees is required to enable a re-design of the Smithfield Road/Chester Street junction, an integral part for meeting Shropshire Council's objectives for the LUF2 Project 2 (Station Quarter) scheme.

The new junction arrangement is influenced by a number of constraints which results in the existing trees being impacted. Efforts have been made to retain the trees and mitigate the impact on trees during the works. As a result, two of the trees within the footway outside H2O and one outside Castle Pointe can be retained within the new junction layout.

Critical health and safety factors within the new junction layout mean that the remaining two trees cannot be retained without undermining key objectives of the scheme and the outcomes of the original funding allocation, thereby resulting in the cost of retention being disproportionate.

Find out more about the Station Quarter Project here: [Shrewsbury Station Quarter | Shropshire Council](#)

Consultation date: The public consultation took place between 19th of November 2024 and 18th of December 2024. www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/

Decision: The two trees subject of the consultation are to be felled.

Reason for decision: During the consultation 24 responses were received, 17 which expressed concern or objection about the felling and 5 supported the felling. Officers reviewed and considered the points made and the Consultation Report ([Updates | Shropshire Council](#)) sets out the Council's comments on the responses received. A hard copy of the report and this letter have been lodged at the reception of The Gateway Centre in Chester Street.

In mitigation, Shropshire Council Officers are in discussion with Shrewsbury Town Council to identify four new trees, that will be provided by the project, that can be planted in suitably agreed location. Additional above ground planters are also proposed and again, discussions between the two organisations will agree a suitable planting scheme to help enhance the area.

The results of the consultation will remain applicable for a period of 2 years following the end of the consultation period. Within the 2 years the local Highway Authority may fell the street tree or trees in question provided a response to the consultation has been published at least 28 days prior to the felling taking place.

After 2 years the results of the consultation will expire, and a new consultation must be undertaken if the local Highway Authority wishes to fell any street tree or trees previously consulted on.

Yours faithfully



On behalf of Andy Wilde

Assistant Director, Growth and Infrastructure