

## **Report by Peter Townsend regarding trees in Nether Edge, Sheffield**

### **Introduction**

I am a highway engineer with many years experience of resurfacing work in other local authorities similar to the current Streets Ahead programme.

On 28 June 2017 I visited Montgomery Road and Ladysmith Avenue in Nether Edge, Sheffield S7. I had the opportunity to inspect the work recently finished to resurface the roadway in Montgomery Rd. The footway has not yet been resurfaced.

Chris Rust, compiler of the Sheffield Trees at Risk Map, pointed out trees on both roads which have been scheduled for felling in the Sheffield Streets Ahead programme.

The scheduled trees alongside Montgomery Rd seem to have very little effect on the footway and the main structural damage is to the kerbs with some rooting into the highway. The contractors have been able to resurface this road to a good standard despite these issues.

### **Observations**

The work on Montgomery Rd is normal practice and indicates that the highway renewal contractors are able to work round trees like this as a matter of routine.

This includes cases where roots may protrude a small distance beyond the kerb line, depending on the use of the road.

Montgomery Rd, and other streets I have observed in that area are lined with car parking which means that the small protrusions are not a problem for moving traffic.

In several cases kerbs are omitted to allow space for trees and this is a normal practice in towns and cities across the UK. I am not aware of any problems from this as long as drainage is considered.

I have observed drainage on Montgomery Rd and adjacent streets such as Ladysmith Avenue and I have seen no problems due to trees. Sheffield is fortunate in having a hilly character which ensures that drainage problems are limited.

The trees on Ladysmith Avenue, where roadway resurfacing has not commenced, present similar kerb issues to those in Montgomery Rd, like many trees in Sheffield, and I see no reason why the resurfacing work would be disrupted by the great majority of these trees.

Similarly, on Ladysmith Avenue, I believe that footway resurfacing could be completed with most of the trees in situ with little difficulty or departure from normal industry practice.

### **Conclusions**

From these observations, and general observations of street trees across the city as a Sheffield resident, I believe that many of the trees listed for removal could be retained without causing disruption to the roadway or footway resurfacing and it would be sensible to give the resurfacing teams the opportunity to decide when a tree felling might be needed.

These observations are solely concerned with the work of highway resurfacing and I recognise that some trees may require removal for arboricultural reasons such as disease.

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