

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
17 November 2021**

Officer: Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

TREES AT THE DANA GARDEN

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Committee about a request by a local resident to fell trees within the Dana Garden;
2. To provide the necessary information to make an informed decision on the request

Request

A request has been made by the resident of No 9 the Dana to fell trees which are situated within the Dana Garden. The reason for the removal are:

- Both husband and neighbour both suffer lung issues
- The Trees create dust
- The seeds and leaves contain HGA a poison to pets and humans and is potentially injurious to pet tortoise who roams around the garden
- Grass is damp and dying
- There is no sunshine to the garden
- There is poor airflow to the house

The applicants wish to replace the trees with native species. The applicant has offered to fund the replacements. No mention has been made of any offer to fund removal.

These trees have a high amenity value in a prominent position close to the river.



The Town Council's Technical Officer with responsibility for the Town Council's treestock has met the resident on site and provided the resident with a copy of the Council's Tree Management Plan and informed the resident of any process.

This request does not accord with the Council's Tree Management Plan

<https://www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Tree-Landscape-Strategy-FINAL.docx>

The Town Council is aware that the resident sought to submit an application to fell the trees through the Planning Authority without notifying the Town Council as land owner. This application was subsequently withdrawn by the resident's appointed Tree Surgeon as he was not aware that the trees belonged to Shrewsbury Town Council. It should also be noted that this application, prior to its withdrawal was being inspected by trees officers at Shropshire Council with a view to ascertaining whether there was a need to seek protective measures. This application also caused some angst locally with others wishing to protect those trees.

The Town Council's Independent Arboriculturalist has inspected the trees and his report is appended to this report.

His conclusion is:

There are no reasonable arboricultural grounds for undertaking any work to these trees other than to remove the ivy from the stem and to periodically re-inspect them. Minor crown reduction may help alleviate some of the issues with encroachment over the garden and leaf fall.

The independent Arboriculturalist has indicated that he does not have the relevant qualifications to make a judgement as to whether it is these trees that are causing health issues; there are other matters in the proximity that could also be a cause.

Courses of Action

1. Decline the application outright as there is no reason to remove the tree in accordance with the Council's Tree Management Plan
2. Request the resident to provide the necessary medical evidence that these trees are the sole cause of the resident's health problems ahead of making a further decision
3. Undertake minimal interventions as recommended by the Independent Arboriculturalist
4. Allow the resident to apply for permission through the Local Planning Authority ahead of making any decision

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the Report be noted
- (ii) That the Committee consider which course of action