

One of Scots Pine trees on our boundary overhangs the public footpath. As it has grown, one of its branches now hangs so low over the public footpath that it obstructs pedestrians of even average height. The branch is 190cm above ground level on the trunk, but its natural shape means it hangs lower than this over the footpath. Several people have commented on the obstruction and the inconvenience it causes.

As the tree is protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), we are unable to undertake any pruning without the Council's permission.

We therefore seek consent for a crown lift to remove the branch that overhangs the public footpath. To maintain the tree's balance and natural shape, we also request permission to remove the corresponding branch on the opposite side within our garden. If permission were granted this would lift the crown by approximately 40-45cm.

Granting permission would remove an obstruction from the public footpath and improve accessibility for all users of the pavement. This is particularly important for the carer of a disabled resident of Heatherway, who regularly pushes him in a wheelchair along the footpath when travelling to and from the doctor's surgery and for two other residents with balance issues and walk with sticks. If permission were not granted, then this will mean that pedestrians may be forced to step into the road to avoid the hazard if they are unable to duck underneath it. This is clearly neither safe nor desirable.

As the tree branch continues to grow as some point, I would imagine, that it would at some point protrude into the road and vehicles would hit it.

I have enclosed photographs illustrating the extent of the obstruction. For reference, I am 183 cm (6 feet) tall, and the photographs show the branch obstructing my passage along the footpath.







