

Reason for Removal of Two Trees in the Front Garden of 4C Crescent Road and Description of New Planting Scheme

Reasons for removal

The two trees in the front garden are to be removed for the following reasons:

- Unsuitable in terms of habit, too large at ultimate height and now too close to the cables belonging to the care home at number 6;
- the two trees are immediately adjacent to each other and they are now entangled;
- They have been planted too close to the fence and are unsuitable in terms of spread; they have partly destroyed the fence.

Furthermore, the trees have been planted in a raised bed. This is not sensible because the land at 4c Crescent Road is higher than 6 Crescent Road so the bed is well above the natural height of the adjacent land and needs to be retained; the retainer is also bending out of shape. The redesign of the border will reduce the height of the raised bed so that it doesn't require so much retention.

The bed will also be reduced in size and the shape altered as it has been destroyed by careless deliveries and, in any case, has reached the end of its natural life. The front gravel section that remains will be planted with a mix of plants good for wildlife, such as lavender) and kept very low (no more than 1m). The trees will be underplanted with spring and autumn flowering bulbs.

Proposed planting scheme

The trees removed will be replaced with those recommended by the Woodland Trust/RHS/Gardener's World as excellent for insects and bird life. Depending on availability, three of the following will be planted.

Please note that one of the trees below is a replacement for the Leylandii removed under **PA201097** (tree 2) which does not appear to have been replaced.

Crab Apple

This tree supports a mix of insects in spring. Blossom is a good source of early pollen and nectar, especially for bees, while fresh new leaves are food for hungry moth caterpillars. Golf ball-sized apples first ripen around October – they're too tart for most human palates but much loved by mice, vole, fox, badger, song thrush, blackbird and more. Fallen fruits are a favourite of fieldfare and redwing too, especially in harsh winters.

Rowan

Its slender shape makes it a perfect tree for gardens. Clusters of delicate creamy flowers offer pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinating insects from May, helping sustain them through spring after apple and cherry blossom peak in April. Caterpillars munch

through spring leaves and in summer, scarlet fruits develop to provide a rich source of autumn food for birds. Blackbird, thrushes, redstart, redwing and waxwing can't get enough.

Blackthorn

Another early flowering tree which means valuable nectar and pollen for bees in spring.

Many moth caterpillars eat its leaves and butterflies lay their eggs in the branches.

Blackthorn is great for birds. They can nest among the dense, thorny thickets which offer protection from predators and feast on caterpillars and other insects from the leaves. Juicy black sloes help them through autumn and winter too.

Hawthorn

Hawthorn can support hundreds of species. Blossom from May is a food source for bees and other pollinating insects. The haws are rich in antioxidants and last well into winter, keeping small mammals and birds such as redwings, fieldfares and thrushes well fed. Like blackthorn, hawthorn is fantastic for nesting birds as the dense, thorny branches help keep them safe from predators.

Goat or pussy willow

The Salix family is known for attracting bees, beneficial insects, birds, butterflies/moths and other pollinators. It is a caterpillar food plant, has nectar/pollen rich flowers, is used for nesting materials, provides shelter and habitat, has seeds for birds and makes a good wildlife hedge.

Varieties and other considerations

The variety of each tree chosen will be RHS Award of Garden Merit and grow to no more than 7m height, with the taller trees away from the telephone pole and the cables emanating from it (one of the reasons for removal of Tree T1 in PA201097).

The trees will be "half standard" or "standard" size (1.8 – 3 metres tall) at time of planting, in accordance with British Standard 3936: Nursery stock- Specifications for trees and shrubs.

Trees with fruit that drops freely will be kept away from the pavement.

The trees will be planted in accordance with British Standard 8545:2014 Trees - from nursery to independence in the landscape.

The trees will be planted in the planting season, November 2023 to March 2024, unless container-grown; the latter will not be planted in periods of drought.

The Council will be informed when the replacements have been made.

Christopher Gee

August 2024