

*Transcript of email to Brentham resident who queried the need to fell a tree.*

During August and September 2017 an Ealing Tree Surveyor inspected all of the street trees in the Hanger Hill Ward area. In addition to the extensive routine pruning works he also recommended some 69 tree removals. In accordance with the Ealing Tree Strategy the Tree Service seeks to advise residents of tree removals by installing felling notices at least one week prior to the works. Where possible I personally try to install these notices as it allows me to double check the surveyor's assessment and ensure we are not removing any trees unnecessarily.

This month whilst installing the notices I have been checking all of the proposed fells. Having inspected all of the removals myself I can advise without doubt that the works prescribed are necessary, I have to admit that I was also quite surprised and disappointed by the volume of removals but individually they are all warranted.

The Lime tree outside number 6 is infected with a *Ganoderma* fungus which had heavily decayed the stem and base. The crown may appear healthy but the structure of the stem has been compromised. The controlled removal by council contractor will prevent this tree from failing unexpectedly.

The Council is responsibly managing the tree stock to ensure public safety. With carefully planned replanting the Council will ultimately improve the urban forest for future generations: many streets within Hanger Hill Ward contain an uneven age class distribution and poor species diversity, our replanting operations will seek to address these concerns.

We are always looking for more residents with an appreciation for trees to help us establish new trees and improve their local environment. The Council runs a Tree Champions voluntary group and if you would like to join and help us with our tree operations you would be most welcome. Furthermore if any residents would like to make a donation to our tree planting fund we could plant more trees in your area, (trees cost £250 to purchase, plant and aftercare).

My team does not remove trees without good reason; it is our professional and personal aim to enhance and increase Ealing's Urban Forest but we also have to ensure that the public are not exposed to unreasonable levels of risk. The Tree Service continues to deliver on the Ealing Tree Strategy aim of replacing every significant tree removed within two years.

I hope this information is helpful and that it offers some reassurance. Ealing Tree Strategy offers further details about Ealing's Urban Forest and the work of the Tree Service.

Kindest regards

Dale Mortimer  
Tree Service Manager  
Environment and Leisure  
Ealing Council  
Perceval House  
14-16 Uxbridge Road  
London  
W5 2HL

Date: November 2017