

Draft tree planting plan for Exeter Road, Southville, BS3 1LZ

October 2023

A draft tree planting plan was circulated to residents and displayed in locations on the street. In addition, it was added to the consultation page on the Bristol City Council website.

Thank you to everyone for your comments. However unfortunately in this instance, upon further detailed analysis of the underground services, this has found that with regret it is not possible to progress these tree planting locations.

Exeter road has been found to be unsuitable for tree planting in tree pits on the pavement or the street, due to the reviewed position of underground services, between the pavement and the edge of the carriageway.

We have responded to the comments as received below with more detail as a point of record.

What happens next?

Alternative planting locations are being investigated within Southville ward.

Comments received: We have given these comments consideration and provide responses below:

Is there a maintenance plan in place?	For all specimen trees planted, they are on a watering schedule for the first two years. During the first year they will be watered and checked weekly, this will change to every two weeks in the second year. Following this period, the specimen trees will be added to the standard council tree maintenance schedule in line with Bristol City Council's Tree Management Policy.
How are the trees to be planted?	Trees planted in the carriageway are in tree pits, following our standard tree pit specification which includes root deflectors to minimise root spread. The pit will also have two bollards to protect the tree, in addition to the standard stakes and cages round the tree. The tree pits including bollards will have a maximum width of 2 metres.
Concern raised for carriageway tree planting taking up parking space.	The proposed planting will have minimum impact to the parking on the street. The North Street entrance proposed locations are outside of the parking lines. Bristol City Council official parking guidelines state the parking space requirement is 6 metres long. There are three locations within parking lines on each side of the street, each with 2 metre tree pits, effecting one parking space on each side of the street.
Exact location of the trees.	The exact location of each tree was plotted using Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping which is illustrated in the consultation maps distributed to every household and displayed on the street. The consultation also included neighbouring addresses.
Distance of trees to houses due to risk of subsidence risk from tree roots.	Tree species are selected to suit available space and would be located within the carriageway, planted with root deflectors. A history of subsidence claims is checked before any street planting.

Potential damage to Victorian drainage system.	A more detailed check of the services has identified that the sewer is in the carriageway near the pavement on one side, whilst a gas pipe is on the other restricting planting.
Could the trees be planted on pavements instead of the carriageway?	Unfortunately, Exeter Road is not suitable for pavement planting due to the pavements being under the 2 metre width requirements.
The effect of the trees including fallen leaves, shade and bird droppings.	The council's tree planting and management policy focuses on improving local environments and wildlife and reducing urban heat stress and pollution in addition to tree safety. Light, falling leaves and bird droppings are part of the natural cycle and are not a serious safety issue to prevent planting trees. In addition, for roads and footpaths that run alongside, extra teams work in the autumn to clear fallen leaves.
What is the pruning height and width?	All council owned trees will be pruned in line with the Bristol City Council's Tree Management Policy, which are in place for all council managed trees including street trees. Pruning is dependent on many factors including species and growth rate.
Where is this in the process?	The tree team was approached jointly by the local councillor and the Exeter Road resident's group to create a tree plan for the street. The consultation is ran in parallel with the Highways QA checking process as a way of speeding the process to allow the option for planting this season if successful.
Suggestion to plant in local parks instead, present as part of a wider Southville ward tree planting strategy.	Bristol City Council has a planting programme that includes park and green spaces, and these will also be planted each planting season. All street planting consultations are conducted at a local street level to ensure all residents are consulted. There is a city-wide street planting programme which is currently being developed, including the Southville ward.
We received 11 positive comments of support for the plan, referring to the health, environmental, social and economic benefits of street tree planting.	We agree – street trees will help improve the local area whilst providing valuable shade and air quality improvements for local residents.

Visit the Bristol City Council Webpage [for more information on One Tree Per Child community planting and woodland maintenance events.](#)

You can contact One Tree Per Child by:

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