

Document 1**Report on Roadside Tree Removal in Weyton****1. Proposal**

- a) Weyton Council plans to remove 2,100 roadside trees over the next three years.
- b) 'Della Tree Care (DTC)' has been appointed by the council to carry out the tree reduction scheme.
- c) DTC and the council's Environmental Department will work together to identify which trees are to be removed.
- d) Residents of roads where trees are to be removed will be informed by the council when work will commence and of any parking restrictions during the work. They will also receive communication from DTC explaining the removal process and the reason for removing trees in their road.

2. Reasons for tree removal

- a) Many trees and tree roots are damaging both pavements and road surfaces. This can cause severe problems for:
 - i) pedestrians with mobility issues and those who are visually impaired
 - ii) certain road users, such as those on motorbikes, bicycles and mobility scooters
 - iii) people with pushchairs and those using wheelchairs.
- b) The number of road traffic accidents with vehicles hitting roadside trees has increased by 35% in the past five years¹.
- c) The number of trees with disease or damage has resulted in a 20% increase in essential removal over the past decade².
- d) Residents and road users are facing greater risks of branches coming loose and falling, especially during strong winds.
- e) The council has seen a 15% increase in the cost of maintaining roadside trees this year alone. At the same time, the council's budget has been cut by 20%³ overall.

3. Appeals

- a) Residents will have the right to appeal against the removal of any tree within 30 metres of their property. Their complaint will be considered by the council who will issue a binding decision within four days of receiving the complaint.
- b) DTC will not be involved in the Appeals Procedure, except to offer expert advice to the council.

¹ Weyton Constabulary press release – Sept 2019

² Weyton Council District Plan 2016

³ Weyton Council Accounts Committee minutes 2018/19

Document 2

Della Tree Care (DTC)

CARING FOR YOU AND YOUR ENVIRONMENT

Hi there!

We at DTC pride ourselves on our commitment to the environment. Our aim is to help local people like you enjoy the pleasures of our green and beautiful land. As you know, we are carrying out essential work for Weyton Council which includes making your local roads and pavements safe for everyone to use.

So, why are we chopping down trees?

Well, we never want to get rid of trees – we love them as much as you do! However, sometimes trees have to be chopped back or removed. You'll be aware of the problems as you walk around Weyton:



But there are some other more hidden reasons too:

- **they may be infected and dying from the inside**
- **they may be in danger of losing a branch**
- **they may have been damaged by high winds or been hit by a vehicle.**

You'll find all our workers are friendly, considerate and fully qualified. They know what they're doing. You can be certain they will go the extra mile to make sure you're always told what's happening, when work will take place and make sure you're safe at all times.

Once a tree has been removed our great team of workers will clean up thoroughly, make the area safe and be environmentally friendly by recycling all the wood that has been removed. Rest assured that no material from the trees will end up in a landfill site.

If you have any concerns, no matter how small, we're always only a phone call away. Give Emma a call on our helpline **(08081 570570)** and she will have the answer.

We at DTC look forward to working with your local council and making your streets safe and creating a pleasant environment for all those who live and work in Weyton.

Please turn over

WEYTON EXPRESS Letters Page

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am horrified by the council's decision to cut down thousands of trees in the town. This is an act of vandalism! Surely intelligent people should know that trees are the lungs of our environment. They absorb harmful CO2. Trees also filter out dangerous chemicals we would otherwise breathe in.

As for the contractors, DTC, they sound good on paper but less so at 7.30 in the morning when their machines start up!

I can see some concerned residents taking direct action and trying to stop these environmental vandals from carrying out the council's wishes!

Yours faithfully

Harri Singh

Dear Editor,

At last! It has taken the council years to deal with the problems caused by trees on our streets but now things are happening. The overgrown trees on our street prevent any light getting to our house. The tree roots sticking out of the pavement mean that I can't use my child's buggy safely. Our neighbour's drains were damaged by tree roots which he had to get repaired himself with no compensation from the council!

Trees might be nice to look at in the countryside, but not outside my house!

Yours faithfully,

Teresa Frank

Dear Sir,

Do trees affect house prices? Trees more than 10 metres from a property and away from underground pipes add value to a house.

Do trees damage houses? Many trees in Weyton are on narrow streets with terraced houses. This can cause serious structural problems to both houses and roads unless the trees are well maintained.

Do people feel upset? Unfortunately, residents are now facing a lot of inconvenience as trees are having to be felled because the council has failed to look after them properly over the years.

Do I care? As a structural engineer, I believe proper maintenance is vital to avoid this wholesale destruction of urban trees.

Yours faithfully,

Mr E. Carruthers

Dear Sir/Madam,

No one loves trees more than me. But I think some people have a chocolate-box view of them in urban streets. Trees can cause problems and become infected, meaning that they need to be cut back or even felled. This is why Weyton Council is dealing with the problems before the situation gets worse and someone is killed from a falling branch.

Having said that, I am less than impressed by Della Tree Care. Their glossy leaflet stated that their workers were 'fully qualified'. Ha! They've taken down two healthy trees on our road and left two diseased ones standing! When I rang their helpline I was told, "Sorry, but these things happen." Unbelievable!

Yours faithfully,

Anna Pukas