

4. CENTENNIAL HALL - TREE REMOVAL

Officer responsible Community Advocate, Beckenham	Author Anne Cosson, Community Technical Adviser, DDI 941-5111 Grant Ancell, Property System Administrator, DDI 941-8773
---	--

The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval to remove a Poplar species tree from the grounds of Centennial Hall.

HISTORY

Centennial Hall has been having on-going problems with their sewage drains. The hall's Management Committee requested that two trees be removed to stop the roots blocking the pipes. As a result of this request, the two trees in question have been assessed by an arboriculturist from City Care (refer attached report).

CURRENT CONDITION OF TREES

Tree 1

Species: Arbutus eunedo – Strawberry tree
Location: East of the hall
Height: 10m
Crown: 8m

Health of tree: The Arbutus eunedo is in good condition. No sign of damage or disease.

Tree 2

Species: Hybrid Poplar
Location: In the rear garden to the south of the hall
Height: 25m
Crown: 12m
Age: 32 years

Health of tree: This is a large, mature, spreading tree with the crown reaching out over the building.

The extension growth, leaf colour and size and quantity are as expected for a tree of this size and age in this situation. At the time of inspection the tree showed average form and vigour with few significant defects apparent.

The exception is an area of damage to the main stem where a large branch appears to have been torn out. The tree is developing callus growth around the wound, but there is evidence of minor damage extending down the stem.

The tree shows a very full spreading crown, which reaches out over the roof of the hall and the neighbour's property (Council housing flats).

The crown is very full with a large sail area, which is putting a significant load on the damaged area of the stem. The ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Tree Hazard Evaluation form hazard rating for the tree was a 9 (9 is the highest risk rating, 1 is the lowest), but this rating would be reduced by reducing the crown of the tree. If the crown were reduced the tree hazard rating would drop to a 4/5. The tree will also require on-going work every year.

The main issue with the tree is the location of the free kindergarten play area, which is located at the base of the tree (see attached). The area is used for playtime four mornings a week.

DRAINAGE ISSUES FOR HALL

It is believe that the old clay drains of the building may be damaged, thus allowing the tree roots into the water supply. The Property Unit is undertaking a full evaluation of the drains. Funding for the new plastic drain pipes should be available next financial year.

SUMMARY

The Arbutus eunedo (strawberry tree) is in good condition and does not require removal. The hybrid poplar, however, is not in good condition and, even with work, it still presents a risk, especially with the location of play equipment underneath it.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board approve removal of the poplar tree, and a more suitable shade tree be planted as a replacement.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: Not seen by Chairperson.