

12. HAWTHORNDEN ROAD - REMOVAL OF STREET TREE

Officer responsible Greenspace Unit Manager	Author W. Fielding - Cotterell, 941-8630
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The purpose of this report is to obtain the Board's consent for the removal of a street tree potentially obstructing the route of a house that is proposed to be relocated from a property at No. 101 Hawthornden Road.

The applicant, Mr J. Murray proposes to redevelop his property in the near future and relocate the existing dwelling to some other property. To transport the house from the site would require the removal of a large ornamental cherry street tree, the southern most one of two cherries, situated on the footpath berm in front of the property.

The cherry is a large tree 5.0 metres in height with a crown spread of 12.0 metres. The tree is in a healthy and sound condition with an attractive crown form. However, two main branches on the tree extend low and partially over the sealed footpath at about shoulder height. At this height and in low light conditions, the branches present something of a hazard to the unwary pedestrian and there have been complaints in the past of pedestrians walking into them. To enable the pedestrians to see the branches more easily, they have been painted white, although this is of limited value in the dark particularly when the paint eventually fades or becomes dirty.

The roots from the cherry, in common with cherry trees generally, have cracked the tarsealed footpath. This is a problem that will increase as the tree grows older and larger, but in itself is insufficient reason to remove the tree, unless the damage becomes particularly severe and dangerous to pedestrians.

The distance between Mr Murray's southern property boundary and the trunk of the cherry which Mr Murray wishes to remove is 8.6 metres. The distance between the trunks of the two cherries is 10.5 metres although the branches of the two trees span this distance. The width of Mr Murray's house roof is 10.2 metres, too wide to fit between the two cherries even if all their side branches were to be removed, and too wide to fit between the southernmost cherry and the boundary fence. To enable the house to be transported from the site therefore, the southern most cherry would have to be removed.

CONCLUSION

The southern most cherry that Mr Murray wishes to remove, has two safety problems associated with its continued existence. It also stands in the way of the existing building being removed from the site. There is another large cherry in front of Mr Murray's property, that, in the event of the other cherry being removed, would still provide a significant feature in the landscape of that part of the road. In view of these considerations it is recommended that the southern most cherry be removed, if it is decided to proceed with the removal of the house from the site.

Staff

Recommendation: That the removal of the cherry tree outside No. 101 Hawthornden Road be approved, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Mr J Murray first providing evidence that all regulatory approvals associated with transporting the building have been obtained.
- (ii) That Mr J Murray agree to pay the full costs of removing the existing tree and planting a replacement cherry of a size not less than 2.5 metres in height.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.