

# Paper Petition Details

## Lack of Maintenance & Unsocial Behaviour on Merton Road

We the residents of Merton Road and the mentioned properties below would like to state that the Council has been neglecting the maintenance of pruning the lime trees on Merton which have over grown and causing damage to our properties over the many years of not cutting them back.

We would like the Council to prune these trees to a minimum 50% head reduction as done with the other lime trees on the nearby area of the grove. There is constantly unsocial behaviour and the area by the grove roundabout is used as dumping ground and sleeping in the over grown shrubs due the lack of maintenance.

If this matter is not dealt with by the Council as soon as possible we will be taking the issue further to the court and claiming damages caused to our properties and cars by the tree which is on a public highway and the responsibility of the Council..

**This petition was received on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017.**

**This petition was passed to the Environmental Services Manager on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.**

**This petition was responded to by the Environmental Services Manager on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.**

### Final Results

<b>Number of Signatures</b>	<b>22</b>
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### Council Response

In answer to your petition above, I will give the fullest answer I can on the point's raised.

There is something in the region of 15 thousand trees in Slough's parks, highways and open spaces, and several woodlands. Legislation requires that these trees need to be regularly inspected for defects and remedial work undertaken where required.

The budget for maintaining these trees is limited and is spent predominantly on works needed for health & safety grounds. Unfortunately we do not have the finance available to undertake individual pruning requests unless the work requested is also needed for safety reasons. However one exception to this would be where the trees are causing significant property damage.

At this time the Council owned trees are inspected every three years and the three Lime trees at the end of Merton Road were last inspected on the 23/11/16. The tree outside 1 Merton Road was found to have decay fungi on the base and accordingly it was itemised to be pruned to insure its stability, and this has now been completed. The two other trees did not have the same problem so these trees were not selected for pruning.

The Council does not routinely undertake heavy reductions, such work is only

undertaken where there is a justifiable reason, amongst reasons that would justify such work would be:- to remedy or lessen structural problems or because the trees have been historically subject to such reductions and where they are likely to have decay at the reductions points.

In cases where it is alleged damage is being caused by one of the Councils trees, the Council will require professional evidence supporting the allegation, this is normally obtained by the property owner's insurer who are involved due to a claim being made to them. Please note it is not the responsibility of a tree owner to undertake routine investigations in the properties adjacent to their trees to prove that their trees are not causing damage. If anyone can supply evidence that a Council owned tree has caused damage to their property, where appropriate the matter will be forwarded to the Councils insurers.

In respect to the pruning in The Grove, this is carried out when necessary for highway sight lines and footway access, which is not always the case in other streets.

The shrubbery at the junction of Merton Road, Hatfield Road and St Laurence Way is pruned annually in the winter which is the maintenance schedule for types of areas throughout the Borough.

The shrubs opposite by the car park have received additional pruning at the request of the parking team to enable for safety reasons a higher visibility of the vehicles and users in the car park.

Regarding the 'unsocial behaviour' you refer to, if fly tipping is either reported by residents or seen by officers it is removed from the location within forty eight hours and instances of fly tipping can be reported directly to Amey or to the Council both by telephone or through the Council's web site.

Antisocial behaviour can be reported to the Council's Resilience & Enforcement team using the anti-social behaviour form on line or by telephone to the twenty four hour number 01753 875298; alternatively reported to the police on their 101 number.

At this time the Resilience & Enforcement team have no reports of ASB or rough sleeping in this area.

The Council's policies and processes relating to the matters you raised are all available on the Council's web site for your future reference.