

St Botolph's Circus - Tree Notices

Overview

At the end of last year Section 115 of the Environment Act 2021 became a statutory duty that all local authorities in England were required to implement.

The duty requires local authorities to consult with local residents on the felling of street trees where no exemptions apply, as per:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/part/6/crossheading/tree-felling-and-planting>

In a similar process to Traffic Regulation Orders, this requires notices to be placed (on the trees to be removed), which provides information on the scheme and a link directing people to how they can comment on the removal.

From the date the notices are published, the public have 30 days to provide comment.

St Botolph's Circus Scheme

An updated St Botolph's Circus roundabout design was presented to the public last year, following public consultation. The design process has now reached a point at which it is prudent to go through this process.

To enable the scheme, it has been identified that 15 trees need to be removed. Two of these are due to poor health, with 13 required to be removed to facilitate the new infrastructure.

Of these trees none currently have Tree Protection Orders (TPOs). Two trees fall within the conservation area, with one of these being removed due to being in poor condition.

Notices for the proposed removal will be positioned on the **trees on the 12th of December.**

Trees to be removed:

T6/ T11 – Western side of site (St John's Green)

T15/17/18/21/27 – South-western corner of Junction

T28/29/32/34/36/39/G31- Roundabout

T40 – Eastern Central Island (Magdalen Steet)



Communication

To support this process, we will be sequencing communications as follows:

- Share note with Team Colchester/ Communications leads
- Notices to be put up on site
- Web update and FAQ to go up on ECC and CCC scheme webpage directing to consultation page
- Email update to key stakeholders

Supporting public FAQ

- **What are the notices that have gone up around St Botolph's Circus?**
As part of the changes being made to St Botolph's Circus, we are reducing the size of the roundabout and providing better walking and cycling infrastructure. To do this, we need to remove several existing trees. During construction these will be replaced, with additional trees planted.

As part of this process, we are required to publish notices and give residents the opportunity to comment on the tree removal. To give your views please visit:

www.essexhighways.org/highway-schemes-and-developments/street-tree-consultations

- **How many trees are being removed?**
There are 13 trees being removed in order to facilitate the new infrastructure with a further two which we are removing due to their poor health.

- **Why do you need to remove the trees?**

Throughout the design process our landscape team have worked closely with the wider team to look at how we can minimise the impact on existing planting.

The earlier 'cross-road' design would have required the removal of all trees on the roundabout. Our revised design, which was shaped following public consultation and presented last year, retains a roundabout, and requires a much smaller number to be taken out to facilitate the new infrastructure. We are also removing two trees which are in poor health.

- **When will you remove the trees?**

This is likely to take place as part of the advanced works following a tender process next year. This would take place outside of bird nesting season.

- **How many trees are being planted to replace those removed?**

The regeneration of the St Botolph's area is aiming to create a more pleasant look and feel to what is a key gateway into the city, as well as improving accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists.

Trees and accompanying planting are a key element providing visual, landscape and biodiversity enhancement - with a 2:1 approach being taken. This means we intend to plant a minimum of 30 new trees to replace the 15 lost.

These will be a mixture of mature and young trees suitable for an urban environment, with a maintenance plan in place to ensure they become established.