

Streets Ahead Public Briefing Note – 9 October 2013

- The Streets Ahead project is a 25 year project that will improve and maintain the city's roads, pavements, streetlights, street trees and street scene.
- Most of the improvement works will take place in the first five years (2012-2017) and this improved standard will be maintained for the remaining 20 years of the contract.

Streets Ahead – Tree Replacement

- Streets Ahead is responsible for the 36,000 street trees (there are 2 million trees in the City so street trees are less than 2%).
- We are replacing trees that are dead, dying, diseased, dangerous or causing damage to the roads or pavements – and will do this throughout the 25 year project - this will help with the regeneration of the city's street tree stock leaving them in a good condition for generations to come.
- We have a legal duty to maintain a safe and clear highway
- Street trees will only be removed as a last resort the number of highway trees will not reduce.
- We will try root barriers and other engineering methods where possible.

Streets Ahead - Tree Maintenance

- Our street tree maintenance process includes:
 - Pruning trees
 - Removing deadwood
 - Removing lower growth to open up pavements and roads
 - Keeping the trees disease free and managing insect problems.
 - Through Streets Ahead we are now doing more of this that at any time previously

Streets Ahead – Tree Removal Process

**WOT!
NO CONSULTATION?**

1. Trees which need replacing are identified by tree experts from the Council and Amey
2. Replacement species is determined from list of highway appropriate trees
3. Information about removals is provided to the public via:
 - Community Roadshows
 - Letters to properties and residents in the immediate vicinity of the tree
 - Public and community meetings
4. Tree information notice are displayed on each tree proposed for replacement approximately two weeks before the tree is removed
5. In some cases we are arranging local 'tree walks' to discuss specific areas
6. Remove the tree and its roots
7. Take the timber away (we will help where we can with requests for use of timber)
8. Build a new tree pit
9. If necessary wait for planting season
10. Plant a new tree
11. Maintain it to a good standard or replace it if vandalised



Meadowhead

- This is a specific Road Improvement Scheme, and not part of Streets Ahead
- Work to improve Meadowhead Roundabout began in July 2012.
- Work includes:
 - re-shaping the roundabout;
 - widening traffic lanes on certain approaches to reduce congestion
 - improving pedestrian crossings to enable use by cyclists.
- The road safety audit of the roundabout scheme raised the problem of current trees impairing driver visibility.
- A full survey of the roundabout was undertaken by tree experts and an ecologist beforehand to make sure that the trees did not serve as a particular habitat for birds and bats.
- This found that none of the trees were suitable for bat roosting – all were graded as being in the least favourable category for habitat value.
- A public consultation exercise was undertaken in 2009 when the scheme was proposed – a leaflet was sent out outlining the scheme including the need for tree/vegetation removal on the roundabout. No adverse comments were received at that time.
- The scheme was then delayed due to funding cuts
- There have been some comments that the tree removal has resulted in a glare for drivers from the setting sun. This is not unusual at roundabouts
- A tree replacement programme is being developed to replace trees removed from the Meadowhead roundabout.
- The trees will be replanted on the roundabout and surrounding locations and will be planted in the next available planting season.
- The trees that will be planted will be species that are suitable for the highway, particularly driver visibility and safety.