

Enfield Highways currently has an estimated 25,000 trees, of these 5,000 are London Plane trees and Lime trees that are classed as forest type trees that are tolerant of heavy pruning/pollarding on a 2 yearly cycle. The remaining numbers of species are either other Forest Type species such as Maples that are less tolerant to frequent pruning or ornamental varieties that again are less tolerant to frequent pruning.

The Council has a tree strategy which was agreed in 2004 and as with most other London Councils this remains as the accepted Strategy for Tree Management within the urban environment.

The Highways tree pruning budget which is allocated annually is sufficient to allow Council officers to manage the Borough's tree stock in accordance with Enfield's Highways Tree Strategy and provides us with the resources to prune the majority of our London Plane Trees and Lime Trees every 2 years and all other varieties including ornamental stock on a 4 yearly cycle.

It is estimated that at least 50% of the Highways tree stock is Ornamental, the majority of which produce Fruit, Blossom, and leaves. If the Council were to adopt as you have requested a 2 yearly cyclical pruning process for all trees on the Highways this would lead to considerable extra costs being incurred by the Council for which there is no budgetary provision.

In addition to the extra cost, it is recognised within the arboricultural Industry that pruning ornamental varieties every 2 years is not considered best practise. These types of trees are not as vigorous or as hardy as other types of trees previously mentioned and are likely to react poorly to such frequent pruning and be more susceptible to specific pests and diseases.

I can confirm that the Council does have a tree removal and replacement program which has limited resources and this road is certainly on the list, however there are a large number of roads that are in greater need of this replacement process than Elsieidene Road and therefore it may be a number of years before the Council is able to schedule work in on this road.

The trees in the road (as a whole) were last cut in 2007/2008 and therefore the road is due for attention in our financial year that runs from the 1st April 2011 to the 31st March 2012.

In view of the reasons set out above, the Council is unable to agree to your request to reduce the pruning cycle for the trees in Elsieidene Road from four to two years.