

# **Community flood plan**

for

**Severn Grove, Romilly Crescent and  
Conway Road, Cardiff, Wales**

## **REPORT ON STREET TREES- REQUEST FOR ACTION**

**Final Report**

to

**Cardiff Council**

March 2025

Final V2/ 260325

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. We live in an area on the River Taff coastal plain where flooding is possible. In order to prepare for this, a small group of local residents have drafted a community flood plan for Severn Grove, Romilly Crescent and Conway Road in North Riverside. We have worked on this throughout 2024 with support from our local councillors, Cardiff Council officers and Natural Resources Wales amongst others.
- 1.2. The community flood plan is published on our website [www.pontcannafoodplan.org.uk](http://www.pontcannafoodplan.org.uk) which also details our [exhibition](#), engagement process and local residents' views expressed in our [drop in event](#) report (see page 4 relating to tree management). This is reinforced by our own experience and many conversations we have had with neighbours over the past few months.
- 1.3. This report is an addendum to a **Report on highway drainage and other issues – a request for action**, November 2024 sent to Cardiff Council. This report set out the actions that we, as a community, request Cardiff Council to undertake to help maintain our streets. It was sent to Simon Dooley, the Council's Team Leader Flood and Coastal Risk Management, on 28 November, to coordinate a response. He suggested that he would remain the conduit for requests for unblocking non-functioning gullies, rectifying ponding along road gutters and reducing trip hazards on pavements caused by tree roots and considering a rain garden at a key problem location. However, he suggested we liaise directly with the Parks Department in relation to asking the Council to crown lift some lime street trees to reduce nuisance whilst retaining the majority of each tree's crown to allow the associated major benefits that the large trees give to our streets.
- 1.4. After an exchange of emails the Council's Arboricultural Officer requested us (23 December 2024) to specify the locations where street trees were causing problems. This report fulfils that request.
- 1.5. This report is written in the context of appreciation of the benefits of our lime trees as large species trees and the services they provide including their positive effect on the city microclimate, provision of oxygen, their absorption of particulates and water, their role in carbon capture and their natural form (habit) improving the character and attractiveness of our streets. We are aware they are much more beneficial than smaller species trees against these criteria. However, the community considers that they cause issues which require management in addition to the periodical inspections and work.

## 2. Survey and requested actions

- 2.1. A Community Flood Plan volunteer (a landscape architect, FLI retired) carried out a survey of street trees on two streets on 3 March 2025. The assessment dealt with the height of canopy and proximity to dwellings only. The distance of trees from front elevations was estimated from ground level and photos taken from several angles to assist accuracy. Tree health was not assessed. Most other trees have their crowns lifted or sufficiently away from dwellings not to cause undue

problems. We concentrated only on those which appeared likely to cause nuisance to residents.

- 2.2. The assessment is divided into the location, issue, action requested and priority. Photos of the highest priority highlighted trees are located at the rear of the report. All identified trees are considered worthy of action being taken.
- 2.3. The street trees in Turberville Place are more mature and most lie within the central reservation, away from dwellings. One has branches closer to a dwelling (no.25). Whilst the trees are broadly appreciated, some residents in this cul-de-sac have concerns about dropping branches and the height of trees and would like the trees to be inspected. They have an ongoing dialogue with the Council which will hopefully continue so this report does not cover these trees or purport to represent the views of the Turberville Place residents.
- 2.4. **Severn Grove**

Severn Grove- near house no.	Issue	Requested action	Priority
<b>West side</b>	All street trees below overhang front gardens		
1	Touching the front elevation	Cut back nearest and lower branches to nearest main branch or trunk.	Yes
5	300mm from front elevation	Cut back nearest and lower branches to nearest main branch or trunk. Tidy up other cuts back to main branches/trunk to restore natural shape.	
37	250mm from front elevation. Low dense crown over garden.	Cut back nearest and lower branches to nearest main branch or trunk to raise crown above garden.	Yes
41/43	400mm from front elevation	Cut back the few nearest branches to nearest main branch or trunk.	
57	(Outside Hafren Court) 100mm from front elevation	Cut back a few nearest branches to nearest main branch or trunk.	
67	(Outside Stoneleigh Court) Touching the front elevation	Cut back the few nearest and lower branches to nearest main branch or trunk.	Yes

Severn Grove- near house no.	Issue	Requested action	Priority
91	300mm from front elevation at gutter level	Cut back the nearest branch to nearest main branch or trunk.	
113	400mm from front elevation at high level	Cut back the nearest branches to nearest main branch or trunk.	
<b>East side</b>			
8	300mm from front elevation at high level	Trim back the nearest branches to nearest main branch.	
74	200mm from front elevation	Cut back the nearest branches to nearest main branch or trunk.	
116	400mm from front elevation at gutter level	Cut back the nearest branches to nearest main branch or trunk.	
129	(Outside 31, Mortimer Street on Severn Grove frontage) 400mm from front elevation at gutter level	Trim back the nearest branch to nearest main branch.	

## 2.5. Conway Road

Conway Road- near house no.	Issue	Action	Priority
<b>West side</b>			
1/3	150mm from front elevation at high level	Cut back the nearest branches to nearest main branch or trunk.	Yes
15/17	400mm from front elevation with dense crown	Cut back the nearest branches and thin to nearest main branch or	Yes



Conway Road- near house no.	Issue	Action	Priority
		trunk.	
29	100mm from front elevation at high level	Trim back the nearest branches to nearest main branch.	
45	300mm from front elevation with dense crown at high level	Cut back the nearest branches and thin to nearest main branch.	
61	500mm from front elevation but low crown over garden.	Cut back nearest and lower branches to nearest main branch or trunk to raise crown above garden.	
<b>East side</b>			
4	200mm from front elevation at high level	Trim back the nearest branches to nearest main branch.	
16	(Outside Flats 1,2,3) Touching the front elevation at high level	Cut back the few nearest and lower branches to nearest main branch or trunk.	Yes
48	100mm from front elevation at high level	Cut back the nearest branches to nearest main branch or trunk.	
68	200mm from front elevation at high level	Cut back the nearest branches to nearest main branch or trunk.	

### 3. Summary



- 3.1. The assessment finds that there are three trees which are touching front elevations and six which are within 100-200mm which are likely to touch buildings in the near future. 10 trees have branches 200-500 mm from the front elevations. In addition, there are two trees which have particularly low crowns which are causing a nuisance to residents. Combined, we feel that there is a strong justification for a programme of selective crown pruning and lifting of the identified trees in our streets.



- 3.2. Based on the assessment, it is requested that the Council's arboricultural officer inspect the trees to address the group's concerns and instructs the council's contractors to carry out works where necessary. This is not a large or complicated job but would reduce nuisance and possible complaints significantly. We do not wish the crowns to be reduced in other ways as they provide important services to us as large trees.
- 3.3. We are willing to 'do our bit' as a community, such as sweeping leaves and keeping gullies clear on the surface. We look forward to a prompt and constructive response on each of the above request and working with the Council to deliver them.

# PHOTOS

Near house no.	Photos
SEVERN GROVE	
West side	
1	
1	




Near house no.	Photos
<b>SEVERN GROVE</b>	
37	
37	

Near house no.	Photos
<b>SEVERN GROVE</b>	
67	
67	

Near house no.	Photos
<b>CONWAY ROAD</b>	
1/3	
1/3	



Near house no.	Photos
<b>CONWAY ROAD</b>	
15/17	
15/17	

Near house no.	Photos
<b>CONWAY ROAD</b>	
16	
16	