

## Eleanor Downs

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**From:** Richard Parmee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 December 2021 09:05  
**To:** Eleanor Downs  
**Cc:** William Lee  
**Subject:** RE: 20007\_76 Lawn Road - Tree removal application [Filed 13 Dec 2021 11:40]

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Hi Eleanor,

Though it may be feasible in principle to construct a new retaining wall and retain the tree, I can see several areas in which this may not work in practice:

- The engineer has already identified that the compressible material may fail over time, leading to future damage to the new structure;
- Looking at the extent of excavation required for the new footings either side of the tree, this could mean considerable root loss, potentially some critical for the tree; I assume some roots will extend down and run along the retaining wall, and some may go beneath any foundations out under the pavement. The foundation construction may destabilise the tree, which in turn then places greater pressure on the compressible material sooner (assuming the tree doesn't become unstable during the work). I see it as inevitable that some roots will need to be removed to allow the construction;
- The new section of wall encroaches into the pavement. This may not be acceptable for highways; and
- If the tree remains, other development proposed within its RPA will affect roots. Though this may not be that significant on its own, in combination with work to repair the wall, the cumulative loss and disturbance of the tree's root mass may lead to increased instability, again reducing the effective lifespan of the new retaining wall.

To my mind, this seems like a huge amount of effort to go to, to do something that may not last that long anyway. A key driver for tree retention now is environmental impact, with trees an important tool in managing climate change. Though retaining this would count towards that aim, look at the resources required to do so, with the two concrete foundation blocks, increased excavation and materials needed, when compared to tree removal, allowing for a much less environmentally costly repair.

New tree planting (further back from the wall), would eventually compensate for the loss of this tree. If you did nothing, eventually the wall would fail, the tree would fall over (with potentially disastrous consequences) and, as the tree would have died due to natural causes, the Council would not be able to demand a replacement is planted.

Therefore, tree removal, wall repair and new planting would be the best approach to minimise environmental impact, and prevent damage to people and property.

Of course, this is merely my opinion, but hope it is of help in considering what best to do.

Kind regards,

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