

Your Ref:  
My Ref: RL/BRATTLEBY/KM  
Date: 15 May 2014

Martha Vahl  
Brattleby Parish Council  
Glebe Farm  
Brattleby  
LN1 2SQ

Highways and Transportation  
Highways - North  
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Officer Dealing: Richard Littlewood

Dear Mrs Vahl,

**RE: POPLAR TREES, THORPE LANE, BRATTLEBY**

I write in response to your emailed letter of 9th May 2014.

I am sorry that the intended felling of the trees is felt by the Parish Council to be a loss to the local environment and that your council believes it should have been consulted with regards to the proposal.

As has been previously explained there is no requirement to consult or notify any third party with regards to the intended removal, however your parish council have been fully informed since you initially raised the issue with the County Council. It has never been the intention to avoid wider discussions with you.

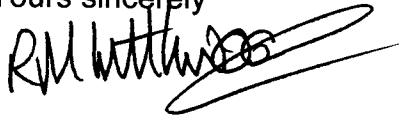
It is important to recognise the reasons for the felling of the trees and why the County Council are keen to see the work progress. The trees were planted by the adjacent landowner, within the highway verge and without the County Councils consent. The species chosen is not one native to the county and the manner of the planting, a single row of trees does not, I would argue, add to the attractiveness of the local environment. However of more importance is that these trees are already having a detrimental impact on the adjacent carriageway structure and due to their known rapid growth potential will obstruct the carriageway within a few years. Additionally the particular method of planting adopted and the recent cutting of the ditch adjacent to the trees will tend to increase the risk of trees falling in extreme weather events.

The certainty of the need for significant future expenditure on these trees highlights the reason why the landowner's offer to remove the trees now at his expense is the sensible solution. It is better to eliminate the certain risks associated with the trees as soon as possible and additionally the willingness of the landowner to address a problem not of the county councils making is to be welcomed. Your council will be aware of the continuing decline in the budgets available to the County Council for highway maintenance and I do not foresee any early changes in this situation. This opportunity should therefore be taken to avoid future funding commitments falling on this authority.

Accordingly it remains the county councils intention to facilitate the removal of the trees. A road closure is required later this year in order to permit a number of localised repairs to the carriageway in Thorpe Lane, along with cutting of drainage grips and it is intended to co-ordinate the felling of the trees within this closure period.

I trust the above comments explain the reason for the work and that your council are able to accept why the works need to proceed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. M. Littlewood', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

for Head of Highways – North