

# Leinster Road, Rathmines

## Arboricultural Report

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Following a series of complaint in relation of overhanging canopies in the eastern end of Leinster Road (see google map below), Rathmines, I have carried out a ground based visual assessment of these trees.



All these street trees are semi mature *Carpinus betulus fastigiata* (Hornbeam) in good condition. However there is a major issue with eight of them as they have been planted very close to the Victorian back walls of the properties located in Leinster Square. This means that that between 30% to 50% of the tree canopies is now overhanging private properties gardens as well as the courtyard of a crèche.





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While Dublin City Park Services do not prune or remove trees for overhanging canopies in normal circumstances, we will prune trees when the canopies are touching buildings or when the overhanging is excessive, as it is the case here. Unfortunately, pruning these trees will require to remove a large percentage of the canopies, promoting decay and dangerous epicormics growths. Following such an operation, the trees will have to be pruned back every 3 years to make them safe and it is likely that the trees will slowly die.

While it is unlikely that tree roots will affect wall foundations due to the weight of said walls, the lateral pressure of the trunk against the walls will affect them negatively and could provoke a collapse of the walls. The minimum space between 10cm and 35cm and it is likely that the trunks of these semi-mature and vigorous trees will start to push these walls in 10-15 years.









In these circumstances, I recommend the removal of the eight *Carpinus betulus fastigiata*. Unfortunately at the moment there is no space to plant new trees in these locations but I recommend that 8 trees to be planted in suitable locations in Rathmines in order to compensate for the loss of these street trees

