

**QUESTION NO 23**

**By Councillor Caldwell for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 31 August 2023**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2023, a number of trees were fell on Pilrig Street and multiple cherry blossom trees on Cambridge Gardens were cut back by contractors working on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council. These trees are within the Pilrig Conservation Area, which has a 2013 character appraisal stating "*the significance of mature trees*" as part of the essential character.

**Question** (1) Why did these proposed works not go through the Planning system given the trees' status were known about for at least a month, as well as the consideration of the above significance of the conservation area, which private local residents rightly get permission when felling a tree, and allow residents to be aware of works?

**Answer** (1)

**Question** (2) What liaison was done with residents of the properties these trees were on before and after the works, and what steps are being taken to replace the tree loss?

**Answer** (2)

**Question** (3) Why was the emergency tree number not staffed at 11am in the morning in question when residents suspected illegal tree felling?

**Answer** (3)

**Question** (4) How are trees that have to be removed for safety on Council land recorded with the Planning service to ensure the Council are replacing our stock in order to meet the "one million tree city" target.

**Answer** (4)

