Consultation Response from KC,   **Trees**
2023/91405 Part of former St Luke's Hospital site, Blackmoorfoot Road, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield, HD4 5RA
Erection of foodstore (class E) with associated access, parking, servicing area and landscaping
Date Responded: 22.01.2024   **Responding Officer: Jack Dunn**   **Responding Ref:** 10/94/t68

This site has historically lost nearly all of its tree stock. The only two significant trees remaining are one sycamore protected under TPO 10/94/t68 and one horse chestnut protected under TPO 10/94/t69.

As mentioned in AWA Tree Consultants report (AWA5710) dated October 2023, The sycamore (10/94/t68) is rated as a category A tree. Not only is it a category A tree but it also provides a large amount of amenity value to the wider area as it is situated so close to a main road and surrounding properties.

The current proposals have not taken into consideration the high value of this tree and there is an argument for there being a design solution that incorporates this tree into the site as a feature. There is a **holding** objection from a trees perspective as the proposal conflicts with adopted Kirklees local plan policy 33 and 24 (i) which reads: The Council will not grant planning permission for developments which directly or indirectly threaten trees or woodlands of significant amenity. Proposals should normally retain any valuable or important trees where they make a contribution to public amenity, the distinctiveness of a specific location or contribute to the environment.

The horse chestnut (10/94/t69) is also a high amenity tree but is a poorer specimen and is showing signs of decline and therefore would be the preferred choice, should one of these trees have to be removed to facilitate the development.

The current proposals also show no trees being planted on the new site. A planting scheme put in place to mitigate against the loss of the current trees on site would be preferable. For example, they could be incorporated into the car park using islands and shrub beds.