

From: maureen Flynn

Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2023 6:38 PM

To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Sidewalk Project List

Subject: Please add to public agenda: New Sidewalk Project List

Dear Council Members,

This issue is pitting residents against residents unnecessarily because City staff never presented to residents the option of adding new sidewalks on the roadside, rather than install new sidewalks where there is currently boulevard trees and landscaping. It has triggered a lot of anger and frustration for no valid reason.

These streets are wide and each detached house has ample parking on their private driveways. Realistically, there is little curbside parking. There is no reason why one side of the road cannot be sacrificed for a sidewalk and the other side for street parking when needed.

Failing to present this option to residents presents a biased view in favour of cars from city staff. Tree roots tend not to move well beneath roadways. It is time that city engineers learn how to maneuver around tree roots on the road side, rather than pave over dwindling green space.

It is poor public relations to pit resident against resident and make people angry. It is just not necessary. There is no reason why the city cannot install new sidewalks AND preserve existing trees.

Keeping the trees and greenery would add a great deal to the beauty of our streets and neighborhoods, help to absorb toxins from the air which would help to protect the health of residents, and address climate change efforts by the City. Destroying the trees and other greenery would do the opposite.

I strongly recommend that new sidewalks be installed on the road instead of removing existing green space to build them. Given the amount of environmental destruction already being done in the name of housing and business development, the trees and greenery of London must be preserved wherever possible.

Sincerely,

Maureen Flynn

Resident