

Subject: Sherwood Forest Sidewalks

Hello,

I am writing to you today to voice my opposition to the planned sidewalks in the Sherwood Forest neighbourhood.

I currently reside at 76 Friars Way, and have lived here for almost 2 years now. One of the reasons my partner and I moved here was the beautiful tree-lined streets. It feels like you're in a movie when you drive down a shady street in the middle of a sun filled summer day. Since moving to this address, we've also come to enjoy the active lifestyle that many others in the community demonstrate. I have never lived somewhere where so many walk/run/cycle by in a day, regardless of the weather. I take our chocolate lab Charlie on long walks through the neighbourhood on a daily basis too, often enjoying the Medway Forest ESA, but usually, since it's a pre-dawn walk before work, just roaming the streets of the neighbourhood. I have never ever felt uneasy or unsafe with sharing the road with the vehicular traffic in the neighbourhood.

I am also a big believer in making cities more accessible for those of us not gifted with the same level of mobility that I enjoy. However, in this neighbourhood, the city doesn't seem to feel the same where sidewalks are installed. Our sidewalks have been completely unusable to anyone but the most able-bodied since the big snowfall at Christmas. I often find I'm forced to choose the road for our walks rather than the sidewalk so I don't risk injury in attempting to use them, and often see others who have made the same choice when I'm both walking and driving through the neighbourhood. To add insult to injury, one section of sidewalk hasn't been plowed a single time this winter, despite my repeated requests through the online portal to report snow not cleared. Each request has been marked resolved, with no action. And in the last large snowfall, more snow was actually plowed on to that portion of sidewalk by city plows. The section I'm referring to connects the Sherwood Forest Park and Annadale sidewalk/crosswalk to the sidewalk on Wychwood. Thank goodness one of the residents on Wychwood shovels very early allowing pedestrians to cross the intersection diagonally rather than at the marked crosswalk to access the sidewalk on Wychwood, even though at the current time you're taking the health of your knees and ankles in to your own hands if you attempt the sidewalk! If the city can not figure out a way to effectively clear sidewalks that already exist, in the way the roads get cleared, how can anyone advocate for more sidewalks that will be unusable for months of the year? We already have safe, well kept roads, and users of all kinds who are well aware of sharing the road, so why make the situation worse by adding improperly maintained sidewalks.

I implore you to reconsider the proposed implementation of sidewalks on the streets of Sherwood Forest based on the planned loss of mature trees in which the character of the neighbourhood relies on, as well as the lack of accessibility demonstrated within the existing sidewalk network in the neighbourhood, which has resulted in a sharing of the road by all users, without incident.

Thank you,

Laura Savage