

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save Sherwood Forest Trees

With Respect to City Council,

We are heart broken and so disappointed with the CWC's 4-1 motion against our plea for alternatives to sidewalks in order to save our trees in Sherwood Forest. We all know that there are viable and workable alternatives to cutting down our mature trees that line the streets and protect our residents. A "One Size Fits All" approach will precipitate an immediate and savage destruction to our quality of life in Sherwood Forest.

When we became aware of the eminent destruction of our street tree canopies, we told this to several family friends who live on Tecumseh Ave. Their reaction was immediate and passionate. They could no longer let their children and grandchildren play in the front yard due to extreme heat and lack of shade when their front yard trees were removed in order to put in a sidewalk. I am sure they have written in their adverse opinion on taking down trees for sidewalks. We as avid walkers choose to walk on shaded streets. We all know that there are less destructive and totally workable alternatives.

We have a global climate warming happening at an alarming rate. Trees provide relief from sun and heat and contribute to oxygen in the atmosphere-nothing else does. You don't have to look far to see the destructive affects of deforestation in the Amazon and so many more places on the planet. I would say that sidewalks contribute nothing in that regard, particularly when they are not navigable in the winter due to lack of snow ploughing and maintenance by the city. We all end up walking on the street anyway.

We all know that there are viable alternatives that will provide safe passage for all of our citizens whilst maintaining our Sherwood Forest Canopy that protects all those that play, run, bike and ambulate beneath it.

***Note: I have included a quote from your Report to Civic Works Committee** re: Municipality Councils 2019-2023 Plan under 2.3 Policy Background:

"The policy goes on to provide seven criteria, including the following: 2.6: Road reconstruction projects, where the existing condition such as mature trees, right-of-way widths, or infrastructure would impede sidewalks on both sides of the street." Therefore, it is the policy of the London Plan that road reconstruction projects should provide sidewalks on both sides unless there are specific constraints that may result in it being more desirable to include one, **or in some cases, no sidewalks.** "

It is our fervent hope that the decision by CWC had not already been made despite unanimous response from the Residents of Sherwood Forest. The 20 year London plan should not be rigid, **but a living document to serve the needs and health** of all the citizens. We all know that there are viable alternatives. It is our hope that our elected officials represent the wishes of the people they serve, while remaining flexible with respect to their enactment of a Provincial Mandate.

Sincerely,
Bill and Val Bradley