

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sidewalks on Doncaster Place?

Dear Mayor Holder and Honourable Members of Council,

Please find my email to the Civic Works Committee below sent in opposition to sidewalks on Doncaster Place specifically, and in Sherwood Forest generally.

I expect that many people will be writing to council shortly about this and will be raising many important points and insights.

I will focus on the issue of compromise. There no need for there to be a choice between trees and a safe area for pedestrians. From a design perspective it ought to be possible to have both. Although there had been some suggestion that compromise solutions were possible, the committee voted for sidewalks on all streets without actually considering any compromise options anywhere. As a result, people feel that they were not listened to, that it was a show hearing, and that that there was no attempt to even address their concerns.

Sherwood Forest residents have been very clear that that they are prepared to accept compromises – one way streets, for example, lowered speed limits, laybys, road markings and signage that makes it clear that it is a mixed use area. I'm sure that as politicians you are interested in making sure that the City of London achieves the optimal results and would like to consider alternatives that might meet the needs of all concerned.

Isn't it strange that communities around the world are trying to re-wild and naturalize, and yet in Sherwood Forest in the Forest City, the best we can come up with is to cut down mature trees and lay down concrete? Isn't it just plain common sense to know that there is a better way?

I invite you to send this matter back for further study to determine if there is no way to avoid cutting down all of those beautiful, mature trees in Sherwood Forest. Surely the destruction of these mature trees deserves at least a second look to see if there is no way to save them. Is this really too much to ask? I don't think so.

And specifically with respect to the Doncaster and Doncaster Place sidewalks, it only takes looking at a map to realize that this particular part of the project is simply a waste and should be deleted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sheila Handler