

Date: March 16, 2021

To: **The Mayor and Members of the Council of the City of London**

Re: New Sidewalks in the 2021 Infrastructure Projects

Request: **That Council exempt the streets listed in the 2021 Infrastructure Projects from the installation of sidewalks.**

To the Mayor and Members:

You have received hundreds of signatures on petitions, letters, emails, written submissions and delegates' presentations with the vast majority of individuals asking that you exempt our streets from the installation of sidewalks. You have heard from people from all walks of life, all ages and health conditions who have made it very clear that they feel safer walking on their neighbourhood roads than on sidewalks and that they highly value the mature trees for the benefit to their health and well being and for the benefit to the environment.

The City of London has also stated as its objective to plant even more trees in the Forest City for the benefit of residents and for the benefit of the environment, yet staff's February 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 report states that 73 mature trees will be removed. Examination of the detailed plans indicates that even more trees will be removed. It will take decades to replace those trees.

We have heard from a Committee member that a blind person was struck by a car three times and that is tragic. We do not know where the accidents happened or the circumstances surrounding them. We are not aware of any such accidents on our neighbourhood streets. All pedestrians will be at some level of risk from vehicles whether on a local street or walking on a sidewalk. The City's Vision Zero principles acknowledges this in its statement 'we all make mistakes'.

I am one of those 'able bodied' people who have been speaking on behalf of all our residents to tell you that there is a better way to meet the needs of all residents, abled and disabled, than to build sidewalks.

Council's purpose is to represent the people of London. I ask you to read the letters and listen to the appeals of those disabled people who have courageously come forward to make their appeal that sidewalks not be built. The majority of those people have made it very clear that they feel safer moving about on their local streets than on sidewalks. They agree that if there is a need to make the streets safer and more accessible there are better ways that have been implemented around the world for many decades. We add our voices to the many who have asked you to exempt our streets from sidewalks.

Respectfully,

Ron and Ingrid Standish  
63 Friars Way, London