

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sherwood Forest sidewalk installation

Dear London City Councilors,

Over the 36 years that we have lived in Sherwood Forest, we are witnessing, for the first time, the Civic Works Committee inadvertently creating increased unity in the Sherwood Forest neighbourhood as we band together to oppose their decision to install unnecessary sidewalks along our streets. We have discovered that we all purchased our homes in this lovely area of the city because we love the mature trees and the ease and safety of walking and cycling with our families on our wide streets.

In our neighbourhood, the streets are far more accessible than our existing sidewalks, particularly in the winter when ice becomes quite treacherous for people of all abilities, which means people end up on the streets. With the addition of sidewalks, drivers do not always expect to see pedestrians on the street and do not reduce their speed. Sidewalks then become counterproductive.

How will adding more sidewalks assist the city in snow removal and maintenance without dramatically increasing cost? Increased costs to the city usually mean increases in property taxes, even though the removal of our mature trees actually devalues our properties.

We are asking Council to please support Sherwood Forest's request for an exemption of sidewalks and protection of our mature trees in the planned road reconstruction and look for alternatives that will address safety and accessibility in our treed neighbourhoods. The London Plan is a blanket plan that does not identically fit every area of the city. We all feel privileged to live in Sherwood Forest and would like your help and support to keep it the Forest.

Please vote against sidewalks and tree removal in Sherwood Forest.

Thank you for your support,
Wayne and Cyndy Gibson
31 Friars Way