

Dear Mayor and Council members,

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request for exemption of the planned installation of sidewalks as part of the road reconstruction on Friars Way, Doncaster Place, Abbey Rise and Scarlett Ave. We are very disappointed in the CWC's recent decision to reject the request to not install sidewalks on our Sherwood Forest streets. We respectfully ask you, and members of City Council to overturn the CWC's decision and support our request for no sidewalk installation and removal of mature trees in our neighbourhood's road reconstruction.

We have been residents of Friars Way, raising our 4 children here for 24 years. If you have not yet read the Sherwood Forest written submission, we would appreciate your time in reading a report that speaks to the safety and accessibility of all residents, and the importance of protecting one of the City's largest assets.

We appreciate the difficulty in balancing and meeting the City's objectives, as well as meeting the needs of ALL Londoners. But we are encouraged by the City's Strategic Plan statement that, "Through innovation and partnerships, London is at the forefront of addressing many community challenges focusing on building a better London for all." We are encouraged by your message, Mayor Holder, that includes the next four year's focus on Strengthening our Community, and Building a Sustainable City and appreciate that the Mayor acknowledged the City's priorities which were based on numerous avenues of community input.

This photo from the City's Strategic Plan is very heartwarming. We love our neighbourhood streets. Londoners work hard to create a neighbourhood that is safe, inclusive, and accessible for all. We work hard to create this environment, so our children can understand and come to value community. This is one reason why residents respect each other in sharing our streets safely.



City of London, 2019 Strategic Plan Image

We understand that sidewalks can be perceived as a method of providing better accessibility, and on busy roads, they are a necessity. However, often the installation of sidewalks create the opposite effect. It is a common sight to see bare sidewalks when they are not protected by trees. We know climate change is on our heels, and with increasing and prolonged heat waves, unprotected sidewalks will remain barren. Our community streets that were once alive will be no more, as we retreat to our air-conditioned homes.

The plan for no sidewalks has the ability to combine the best of ALL factors, to do the best job we can to meet the City's objectives of accessibility, safety, mitigating climate change, improve the mental health of Londoners, keep our unique neighbourhoods, and maintain our brand as the Forest City.

We respectfully ask for you to look at the City's overall objectives that benefit ALL Londoners and support our request for exempting Friars Way and our neighbourhood streets from the installation of sidewalks. We appreciate your effort in trying to keep the "Forest" in Sherwood Forest, and in the Forest City.

Regards,
Julia and Al Morrow