

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Alternatives to sidewalks in Sherwood Forest

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to express my deep disappointment and anger by the decision by the Civic Works Committee regarding sidewalks for Sherwood Forest. The delegates representing our neighbourhood did an exceptional job of describing the flow of people and traffic in our neighbourhood, as well as requesting that the committee and the city look for alternatives that would address safety and accessibility in our mature treed neighbourhood. Their key points were as follows:

1. The plan of no sidewalks has the ability to combine the best of ALL factors as much as possible and do the best job we can to meet the City's objectives:
  - accessibility, safety, mitigating climate change/environmental benefits, mental health of Londoners, unique aspects of each neighbourhood, maintaining our brand of the "Forest City".
2. Our neighbourhood is inclusive:
  - Looking for a better way to do the best for as many Londoners as possible OR
  - Looking for a better way to create the most good for the most amount of Londoners
3. Asking for better ways to protect and improve the safety and accessibility of residents, and the protection of the city's mature trees, rather than installing sidewalks.

I was particularly insulted by a CWC committee member's comment that we aren't doing this for the people who live there today, we are doing it for people who will live in the neighbourhood in the future. In other words, I don't care about you, only future residents of your neighbourhood. What future people is he talking about? We provided a whole number of submissions by people who live in our neighbourhood today, who have mobility issues, and they expressed many reasons why they opposed sidewalks. Are our elected members not listening at all?

My wife, children and I have lived in the neighbourhood, at the corner of Wychwood and Scarlett, for the past 19 years. On a side note, this will represent the 5<sup>th</sup> time over those 19 years that the city has either ripped up and replaced our road or dug up portions of our lawn for construction. What's next?

I have attached a picture of the two trees that are slated to be cut down on Scarlett Ave., to construct a sidewalk that no one now or in the future wants.

The sad part is, eventually there will be so many angry residents across the city opposed to removing historic trees for sidewalks that the city will end the requirement due to the backlash. Unfortunately, it will be too late for Sherwood Forest who will have already lost 60 plus mature trees, and won't get them back for another 50 years. Maybe you can stop that from happening?

Sincerely

Timothy B. Potter

