

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Sherwood Forest sidewalks

I wanted to take a few moments to voice my displeasure and concern over the recent decision by the Civic Works Committee to oppose the proposal of the Sherwood Forest neighbourhood with regards to the planned sidewalk installation and the removal of so many mature trees in the neighbourhood. As you are aware, the majority of the residents of Sherwood Forest are opposed to the planned removal of mature trees and installation of sidewalks on Friars Way and Doncaster Place.

Having lived in this neighbourhood for 20 years I am very familiar with the amount of traffic in this neighbourhood and I can tell you from experience that there is very little. I walk my dogs every day and every evening for approximately 20-30 minutes and on average I would see maybe 5 vehicles during that time. To install sidewalks, at a great expense, for the 'safety' of pedestrians is absolute nonsense. There is not enough vehicular traffic to warrant the installation of sidewalks.

London prides itself on calling it the 'Forest City', yet it is planning to destroy so many healthy mature trees for a project that does not make sense and one that the residents of the neighbourhood do not want. We recently lost many mature trees to the emerald ash borer, and while new trees were planted to replace those that were removed, it will take years for those trees to mature to what they are supposed to replace.

To say that the sidewalks that are planning on being installed for those with disabilities is a farce. While walking this winter on the few streets in this neighbourhood that do have sidewalks (Wychwood Park, Annandale Dr, Lawson Rd), I can tell you that those sidewalks were in such a state of poor maintenance that I found myself walking on the roadway as it was much safer to do so, rather than risking a fall on the icy sidewalks.

We live in a democratic society, where the government is supposed to be a government of the people and a rule of the majority. Please listen to the majority of the residents in this neighbourhood who are opposed to the removal of so many mature trees and the installation of sidewalks that are not needed and not wanted.

Regards,

Steve and Kristen VanBerkel