

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Doncaster Place and Avenue, Friars Way Road Reconstruction

Good morning, I am a property owner at 60 Doncaster Place and I have been advised that Doncaster Place and Friars Way are to experience road reconstruction which will include the installation of sidewalks on these streets in addition to a sidewalk connecting both streets on Doncaster Avenue.

I wrote the civic works committee in time for its February agenda and meeting. In addition I have happily signed a street and neighbourhood petition opposing the installation of sidewalks on any of the three streets mentioned above.

I am most disappointed that the civic works committee at its special meeting on March 15, 2021 has voted down a special exemption requested for new sidewalks not to be installed as part of road reconstruction on these streets.

This is a mature growth area built in the 1960's with beautiful mature trees that is good for the air quality and environment, provides shade for homeowners and walkers and also provides habitat for birds and animals. We have never had any problem with pedestrians and vehicles sharing the roads in Sherwood Forest and we all enjoy the natural beauty of the area including mature growth that prompted most of us to purchase in this area. It backs onto the Medway Valley that promotes people, wildlife, birds and nature to live in harmony together.

Council last year saw the wisdom in exempting Runnymede Crescent from sidewalks being installed with new road reconstruction and I am asking for the same exemption for our streets this year. I do not want to see mature trees cut down in an area that has very little vehicular traffic other than owners, guests and delivery vehicles. The roads in this area do not connect as a thoroughfare for vehicles to short cut to another area.

Hundreds of neighbours had signed a petition to oppose new sidewalk construction in this area and I respectfully request that you consider an exemption for the proposed streets in Sherwood Forest and not install them as part of the road work to take place.

I understand the London Plan was formulated to include the installation of sidewalks in all areas of the city as major roadwork projects are undertaken. I suggest that it may seem like a good idea when the plan was formulated but as Council gets requests for exemptions and particularly in a subdivision like ours with mature growth and minimal vehicular traffic, perhaps the plan should be revisited and possible changes made to it so that every year you are not faced with the same barrage of letters, meetings and time when an area such as ours does not need nor want sidewalks and the removal of so many beautiful mature trees.

I ask Council to respectfully exempt Sherwood Forest from installing sidewalks and removing trees for the purpose of sidewalk installation.

Many thanks for your time.

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