

### **Dodgy Statistics**

*75% of Street Trees approaching end of life (Cllr Julie Dore)*

### **Not True! Council's own expert consultant denies it.**

This claim has been made many times by the City Council, quoting a survey from 2007. But the person who did the survey has strongly denied the claim and leading tree expert, Jeremy Barrell says that the working life of our hundred year old street trees is around 260 years.

### **Why are they being chopped?**

*Trees are felled because they are Dangerous, Dead, Diseased, Dying...*

### **But 84% of big trees condemned are healthy and only causing slight damage to kerbs etc.**

The Council and the press emphasise the first four of the '6D' reasons for replacing trees, but the biggest number of condemned trees are healthy ones causing minor damage to kerbs and pavements. Most towns and cities sort those out with no fuss and no fellings. Tree campaigners are not trying to save unhealthy or genuinely dangerous trees.

### **Crazy costings**

*£50,000 to save a tree (Amey)*

### **Independent expert says £1500-£3000**

When the Chelsea Elm was condemned, Amey said it would cost around £50,000 for the work needed to save it. We asked an experience highway engineer and he said that tree was a bit tricky but could be sorted for £1500-£3000. The people who do the actual highway work seem confused by Amey's costs and in any other town or city it's not seen as an expensive problem.

### **Fake Consultation?**

*"Only one resident on Chippinghouse Rd opposed fellings!"*

*(Cllr Bryan Lodge)*

### **Doorstep survey showed at least 40 opposed fellings.**

The Council say the Independent Tree Panel street survey shows most residents do not oppose fellings. But the survey was badly run, had very few responses and many residents say they never saw it. Our own door to door surveys show a different picture. Three out of four households in Chippinghouse Rd opposed the fellings with 40 people signing petition forms to say that.

### **Tree Panel ignored**

*We want to put people's views at the heart of our decision making" (Sheffield City Council)*

### **Wrong! Independent Tree Panel ignored time and again.**

The Independent Tree Panel (ITP) was set up to give us all a voice in decision making. The ITP experts, employed at a huge cost, have recommended saving large numbers of the condemned trees they have considered but their advice has been repeatedly ignored. The only voice that counts in the decisions is Amey.

### **No High Court Endorsement**

*"High Court has strongly endorsed our policies and procedures" (Cllr Bryan Lodge)*

### **Wrong! The Court only ruled on a tiny part of the work.**

The High Court focused on whether the Council needed an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and whether the ITP household survey was legal. The judge ruled that an EIA was not needed and the survey was allowed. He said nothing about procedures or about any policies other than the survey and the EIA, both relatively minor issues in the felling programme. In 2016 Amey told the Police that the fellings were approved by the High Court, which was grossly misleading.

# What can street trees do for us?

## Climate...

Tree planting is an easy way to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Trees can cool our built-up areas in hot weather.

Trees reduce storm water run-off, easing the burden on drainage and cutting the number of pollutants in drains and rivers.

## Health...

One mature tree produces enough oxygen to support two people.

Trees absorb toxic vehicle exhaust gas, reducing concentrations at street level by 60%.

Access to trees is linked with better health and emotional wellbeing

A highly rated scientific study has shown that living in a tree-lined street gives the same health improvement as being 7 years younger.

## Community...

Broadleaved trees increase property values between 5% and 18%

Tree sounds, from birdsong to rustling leaves, offset traffic and other manmade noises.

Retail areas with trees get more sales and more investment

A more natural appealing environment means more people will use the streets, encouraging healthy walking and discouraging some crime

Find your local street tree action group at:

[www.saveshefieldtrees.org.uk](http://www.saveshefieldtrees.org.uk)

Leaflet produced by Save Nether Edge Trees  
One of the STAG Sheffield Tree Action Groups  
[www.savenetheredgetrees.wordpress.com](http://www.savenetheredgetrees.wordpress.com)



## Stop The Spin!

**Everybody is shouting  
about our street trees.**

**Sometimes it's more spin  
than facts**