

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **SHEFFIELD TREE ACTION GROUPS**

**15 August 2017**

**Sheffield City Council have bought a very expensive victory in court.**

**On our streets the campaign to save healthy trees goes on.**

Lord Justice Males has ruled in favour of SCC's attempt to impose trespass laws on tree protests. Defendants are taking advice on their next steps.

The City Council have now spent over £400,000 of public money, including legal fees, the Independent Tree Panel and Policing costs, to oppose the street tree campaign, but as was stated in court, they have never once engaged in a constructive discussion with STAG.

The past few weeks have seen an unprecedented level of criticism aimed at SCC, culminating in the intervention of the Secretary of State for the Environment, followed by absurd and misleading claims in the Council's response to Mr Gove. Tree campaigners will not be surprised by this given the barrage of spin put up by SCC ever since this fiasco became a matter of public concern.

STAG and its member groups now have more supporters than ever and we are determined to do everything we can to save the remaining healthy trees condemned by SCC and Amey. It was depressing, but not surprising, that SCC refused repeated requests in court for the highly secret Streets Ahead contract with multinational contractor, Amey, to be made public. Until citizens can scrutinise this £2.2bn agreement and SCC are prepared to listen and hold open discussions of how to resolve the dispute, mistrust and opposition is inevitable.