

Press release from SHEFFIELD TREE ACTION GROUPS (STAG)

25 June 2018

HEATWAVE - STREET SAPLINGS NEED YOUR HELP

STAG appeals to citizens to get out and water young trees on their street

The Streets Ahead highway renewal project has planted thousands of young trees on our streets but this unusually hot dry weather threatens their survival. This week the temperature in Sheffield is predicted to reach 26 C most days. There is very little chance of any rain until next Monday

Amey staff are working hard to ensure that young trees get extra water in these conditions but they just don't have enough staff or vehicles to ensure that all of these young trees get the extra water they need.

So STAG, Sheffield Tree Action Groups, are appealing to citizens to get out and water the young trees on their own streets.



Heather Mitchell of Save Gleadless Valley Trees said:

“In a heatwave like this a young tree needs 20 litres of water a day, that’s two big watering cans. Streets Ahead would normally expect to water the trees a couple of times a year but this is exceptional weather for Sheffield and the best way to ensure that the new trees thrive and grow to provide shade and beauty is for all of us to help.

This is a great opportunity for local communities to get together and look after their own environment.”

Chris Rust, Co-Chair of STAG said:

“It’s tempting to say that the authorities should look after this but in reality our City Council does not have the money to do everything we would like them to do and simple community tasks, like watering saplings in the summer, sweeping up leaves in the autumn, and clearing snow in

the winter bring people together and give us all a sense of ownership.

Of course it’s a great opportunity for younger fitter people to do something that will be appreciated by less able neighbours.

And it reminds us that in this hot sunny weather, nothing is more welcome than the cooling shade of

Here's advice from tree expert Russell Horsey for regular watering of young street trees:

"The key is to ensure that the water soaks into the ground and does not run off. If the tree leaves start to wilt, then add more water.

A watering can full every other day will help lots, don't put it down the watering tube, best to water evenly close to the stem to keep the root ball wet. Or use a a large plant pot, put a bin liner in it, put a small nail hole in a corner, face this towards the stem of Tree and fill it with water

The benefit of the pot and bin liner approach is it guarantees the water slowly gets into the ground. Also it's best to water early morning or in the evening if you can when the sun is not hot enough to evaporate the water.

Continuing this for the rest of the summer will really help your trees."