



SHEFFIELD TREE ACTION GROUPS (STAG)

Press Release

20 July 2018

SHEFFIELD COUNCIL ANNOUNCES TREE TALKS FOR AUGUST

SCC say they have a new plan for street trees

Tree Campaigners are worried about SCC's dictatorial style

SCC Cabinet member Lewis Dagnall made a public announcement in a radio interview today saying that he will invite several interested parties to a meeting during August to hear about new proposals to end the bitter dispute about the council's programme to fell thousands of healthy street trees. An independent facilitator will be brought in.

Chris Rust Co-Chair of STAG said:

"It's good to talk. We hope that this will be a proper two-way discussion where the knowledge and ideas of all parties are taken into account. We have become too used to SCC lecturing us with their latest scheme and paying no attention to alternative views. I'm also worried that SCC don't appear to be taking independent expert advice."

It is essential that any solution reflects the huge health and social benefits of mature trees on our streets. It is time for SCC to start following national good practice in conservation and highway management. Up to now their approach has been shortsighted, divisive and out of date."

Ann Anderson of Save Dore, Totley and Bradway Trees said:

"I would be more confident about these talks if the city council had not spent so much time recently using tens of thousands of pounds of public money to bring legal cases against tree protectors and to extend the injunction against protests, which would not be needed if we had a good agreement about how to end this mess."

If SCC still feel it necessary to intimidate campaigners, how can we trust the new plans will be a real solution?"