



## **SHEFFIELD TREE ACTION GROUPS (STAG)**

Press Release

**19 June 2019**

### **AMEY ASKING RESIDENTS TO WATER TREES**

#### **STAG WELCOMES PUBLICITY ABOUT WATERING SAPLINGS BUT ASKS AMEY: "WHY ARE YOU NOT DOING IT PROPERLY?"**

Amey are to put notices on young trees that say "Please Water Me - Thank You". We are told that this is to encourage local residents to water trees, especially in dry weather. This is something that STAG publicised last year when many residents regularly watered trees.

Sadly, though, many saplings died last year due to lack of proper after-care. We have seen a significant proportion of new plantings fail and it is hard for new trees to establish themselves in the urban environment.

**Rebecca Hammond of STAG said:** "I'm pleased that they're encouraging people to look after their local trees. STAG have encouraged people to care for trees, including watering, and many people have been very active in doing so.

"But this must not replace proper aftercare from Amey. Last year many young trees died due to lack of sufficient water. We have seen Amey's watering schedules, and compared them with the recommendations from experts. Amey simply don't water often enough.

"The city has already lost thousands of healthy street trees. We cannot afford to lose more due to poor care of young trees."

**Paul Brooke, Co-chair of STAG said:** "Many people have campaigned to protect trees in Sheffield and it has been heartbreaking to see the loss of so many healthy trees. We all want to try to make sure that the young trees planted in our city have a chance of one day filling the gaps torn in our urban tree canopy.

"We are paying a small fortune for a small service from Amey. As the contractor responsible for looking after the trees we as council tax payers have paid for, Amey should be able to water them properly. However, if their plan is to encourage residents to do so instead then there is little choice but for us to do it.

"I'd like to ask the Council whether it is sure it is getting what it paid for and whether Amey are doing their jobs properly"