

Whalley Range Tree Management Plan

2009/2029



Purpose of the Plan

Whalley Range is a distinctive area of the City with a high proportion of Victorian and Edwardian properties. A large part of Whalley Range is a Conservation Area. One of the features that makes Whalley Range special is the extensive tree canopy – many of which were planted when the area was developed.

The purpose of this plan is to retain the character of Whalley Range as a tree-lined area both now and in the future.

This plan recognises the value of trees to Whalley Range's community. It proposes a way in which the tree stock can be managed so as to retain the tree canopy whilst reducing some of the negative impact of trees to the ward's environment. The plan covers a five year programme which is the first phase of a twenty year management plan. This phased approach means that only between 2-5% of the over mature trees in the ward are removed each year this will ensure we don't get to a point of complete failure of the tree stock in future decades.

Whalley Range is unique and this requires a bespoke approach to tree management. What differentiates this plan from our citywide approach is that we will be taking a long term, proactive approach to the replacement of trees which are either in a rapid state of decline or those which are too large and unsuitable for their current location. Overall our strategic approach is incremental and sensitive to local needs.

Background

Whalley Range presently has a street tree population of 952 trees, 473 of these are either over mature or fully mature with many showing various signs of physical decline, some being more advanced than others.

One of the problems presently being experienced by local residents and pedestrians is where a number of trees have outgrown their location and where trunk and



buttress root systems have expanded/grown to such an extent that pedestrians' safe passage has been compromised and where no remedial repair alternatives could be applied.

Another particular problem in many roads within this ward is the high number of Common Lime trees which produce large volumes of epicormic growth along the full length of their trunk systems which not only interfere with safe pedestrian passage, but also block sightlines for motorists and footway users alike.

The other key problem experienced with this variety of tree is its attraction to aphids that feed on its leaves and then excrete honeydew, which is very sticky and falls on vehicles and properties with many complaints received each year. This particular variety of tree is considered unsuitable and inappropriate for a street setting.

Nature of the Programme

To carefully manage the phased removal and replacement of these 473 trees over the next twenty years, a Tree Management Plan has been developed to ensure that the visual and environmental impact on each road affected by this necessary process is minimised, allowing a phased removal and replacement plan for each individual road, therefore maintaining a

tree canopy cover within every road in the ward.

All trees have been audited and over the next twenty years, a series of four, five-year programmes will be put in place taking into account the number of trees on each road affected by this management plan, the speed of decline of individual trees and any other factors that may influence this process. In terms of replacement we will seek to ensure that we develop a varied treescape with a range of ages, species, colour and form, with species that will be suitable and appropriate for their locations for many years to come and enhance the green streets of Whalley Range.

We will prioritise the removal of any trees which are dead, dangerous, diseased or causing structural damage. In the five year period it is likely that there will be trees that fall into this category and will need immediate attention, currently there are only two trees that fall into this category.

As the programme is incremental there will be some trees that are over mature and causing an obstruction which will not be removed within the immediate future. Provision has been made to undertake work to the base of the tree to reduce any trip hazards/obstruction.

For further information please contact:

David Davidson, Green Space Manager on 718 4810 or

Steve Leaff, Arboricultural Officer on 718 4812

To report or request a service please contact

Environment on Call on 954 9000