

Whalley Range Tree Group Purpose

The Whalley Range Tree Group is an open forum for residents of Whalley Range aimed at ensuring that all those interested in understanding more about the Council Tree Management Plan can access all related documents, also providing an opportunity for residents to share their views on the plan and to provide voluntary support to facilitate aspects of the plan.

The Group whole-heartedly supports the “Manchester Tree Strategy” and welcomes the implementation of a Tree Management Plan in Whalley Range. The Group hopes to be able to work with the Council to enhance the level of consultation, so that the aspiration expressed in the Manchester Tree Management Strategy - that “ the protection and effective management of trees requires a co-ordinated approach between all the different interested parties” - can be fully realised.

To date residents who have enquired have been provided with the following documents from the Council:

- 1) Whalley Range Tree Management Plan 2009 - 2029.pdf
- 2) WR Tree Felling and Replacement Yrs 1 to 5.pdf
- 3) WRange Survey (1).xls

This has resulted in the following specific concerns. We urge the Council to work with us to alleviate these concerns, and to ensure that the plan has the support of the community.

- a. The documents referenced above indicate that both of the two trees currently defined as “diseased / dying” were felled last year. The remaining trees earmarked for felling are jointly defined in document 1 as “**Over-mature and unsuitable for location or in decline**” or in document 2 as “**overlarge for situ/in decline**”. The group requests, where available, the provision of a more detailed survey document detailing the rationale for the felling of each individual tree. It is hoped that this will provide the following:
 - Clarification on the rationale for each planned tree felling - i.e. a specific statement of “overlarge for situ”, “Over-mature”, “un-suitable for location” or “In decline” for each individual tree.
 - Clarification on the definition of the above terms, and the survey methods used to classify the trees into these categories i.e.
 - i. Was the tree assessed from the ground, visually?
 - ii. Was the tree climbed to assess possible faults in the canopy, stem, and structure?
 - iii. Were additional tools used to assess the trees?
 - iv. What calculations were carried out to determine the relative risk of the trees safety?
 - v. What timescales have been estimated, for each tree, when moving between the classifications “over-mature” or “In decline” to “dying”.
 - vi. For each individual tree which is identified as “overlarge for situ” or “un-suitable for location”, clarification would be helpful on the rationale behind this classification and the issues arising.

- b. Where trees have been identified as “In decline” / “over-mature” the group requests further consultation on the time period over which the plan is defined, with a view to identifying any opportunities for slowing the rate at which trees are planned to be felled.
- c. Where trees have been identified as “over-large” / “unsuitable for location” the group requests further consultation and the opportunity to investigate alternative methods, other than felling, to alleviate the issues arising.
- d. The group hopes to work in tandem with the Council to provide support for the tree replacement operation and to identify opportunities for further tree planting in Whalley Range. This might include:
 - i. Identification of opportunities for accessing alternative funds / grants to support planting of additional replacement trees over and above the numbers identified in the Tree Management Plan.
 - ii. Identification of sites for additional tree planting.
 - iii. Identification of opportunities to work with the Council and Community to encourage a system of “New Tree Adoption” and thus enhance the probability of replacement tree survival.
 - iv. Identification of opportunities to work with the Council and Community to encourage a system of “Mature Tree Adoption” and thus ensure the council are made aware, in a timely manner, of any unanticipated issues with the existing tree stock.