

Whalley Range Tree Planting Proposals Explored

November 2010

Main Issues

The Whalley Range Tree Group wishes to work with a delivery partner to contribute towards tree planting in the Whalley Range area that will complement the sustainable management of Whalley Range's magnificent heritage of buildings and trees that form the main characteristics of the area.

The group wishes to preserve as many trees as possible and to raise awareness amongst residents that there is a sustainable management plan for the trees in Whalley Range. That the trees need to be managed so that changes occur in a measured manner. That there is not a rapid and radical change to the status quo for the trees. That the management of the trees ensures that the trees of Whalley Range fulfill the requirement of climate change adaptation functionality. This programme should be balanced with the fine character of many of the current Lime trees that line the streets of Whalley Range in the context of public safety.

The trees as an asset

The group wishes to consider the trees as part of the Whalley Range Conservation Area as an asset, managed as an asset. Therein a value should be given to each tree in a range of ways. This asset should be set against the cost of ongoing maintenance so that it can be clearly seen that the true value of this asset is recognised and understood.

Ways of valuing trees are outlined here:

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/eng-casefortrees.pdf/\\$FILE/eng-casefortrees.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/eng-casefortrees.pdf/$FILE/eng-casefortrees.pdf) (See page 23)

Examples of measurement are: e.g. Cavat, I-trees, Helliwell, DRC.

Similarly it wants the Council to recognise the important contribution made by these trees to the environment and to commit to the responsible and sustainable custodianship of this resource on any land that it owns or influences.

Whether a financial value is put to them or not, the trees should be recognised as making a contribution to both the perceived and real value of property and business in the area.

It should be recognised that the trees make a financial contribution to:

Without the trees it should be recognised that the recent inward investment in property, the wealth and the gross added value of residents' accumulated assets, the contribution to the cities financial surety would be diminished.

Thoroughness of inspection

In terms of the inspection of the trees the Group would like to understand how the trees were assessed and how thorough the inspection was undertaken in terms of assessing the full condition of each tree.

- Was the tree assessed from the ground up visually
- Was the tree climbed to assess possible faults in the canopy, stem, and structure?
- Were additional tools used to assess the trees?
- What calculations were carried out to determine the relative risk of the trees safety
- What distinction is made between 'over mature', old mature' and 'senile' or 'unsuitable' any other perceived justification for removal.
- What is the definition of these terms
- Are the removals reasonably justified?

Is the inspection schedule available for scrutiny?

Cost of tree removals

The group is concerned that in the current climate, the programme is sustainable and is achievable. Are there sufficient funds to remove the trees should it be required?

Cost of replacements

Similarly what is the cost of replacement, and is this fully funded. Are sufficient funds available for immediate re-planting and have inflation and budget cuts been taken into account. If it is essential that trees are to be removed it is essential that the green infrastructure is fully maintained.

Heritage Value of Trees

Have the trees been assessed in terms of their heritage value? Whalley Range has Conservation Area status because of both its distinctive houses and street scene, part of which is the trees that give it an enhanced sense of place.

What advantage can be achieved by the engagement of the Planning Departments Architectural Liaison Officer in terms of the location of trees in relation to property. Similarly is there anything to be gained from engaging other Councils in assessing ways of maintaining and supporting the preservation of the character of an area e.g. Bristol City Council.

Similarly it may be of use to explore the value of a Heritage Lottery Fund application that could relate to the character of the area and the conservation of the trees.

Under planting

The group is very concerned that the issue of under planting is not dismissed out of hand and that some clarity is reached on this issue. Pre planting has occurred successfully in Whalley Range in locations where trees were not previously planted but where the trees would successfully:

- Achieve a balanced planting scheme in the street
- Complemented existing plantings in the street without affecting street life or tree management
- Better suited ingress and egress to property e.g. where large trees were planted close to or over desired driveway location

This process would allow some reasonable overlap between replanting and phased removal so that a mix of canopies can be achieved thus maintaining the character and contribution of the treescape.

Climate Change

As a vibrant living space Whalley Range is well set to adapt to the future of a world affected climate change. A diverse range of large and medium canopy trees should be maintained in a good condition so that trees can assist in two ways:

- Create shade on hot days
- Absorb some run off from properties
- Slow down the rain as it falls
- Create cooling of the street through evaporative cooling by the take up of water and transpiration
- Only healthy trees can do this. The larger the canopy the better.
- Be resistant to disease through the use of disease resistant species, diversity and tree health.
- Support biodiversity – a range of creatures, flora and fauna e.g. birds, bats, insects, plants.

Local groups such as The Whalley Range Forum have the ability to act as a conduit for financial handling and applications to third parties for funding.

A range of funding sources are presently and will become available for tree planting in a range of locations and ways and the group is happy to explore these.

Locations

These suggested proposed locations are just the start but seem to fit into the Whalley Range Tree Strategy by meeting a number of criteria presented in and outside the strategy.

- Providing large canopy trees where they are needed and at a set back a reasonable distance from large size and multi-occupancy residential property.
- Provide medium sized and ornamental trees adjacent to individual medium size residential property
- Present schemes that do not directly affect the management of existing trees in The Strategy.
- Provide tree canopy where on occasion trees, landscape and greenery have not been adequately provided as part of planning conditions.
- Allow for the Right Tree to be planted in the right place.
- Fit into group planting schemes that are suitable for grant funding
- Provide gateway and Image enhancement to commuter and pedestrian footfall route ways

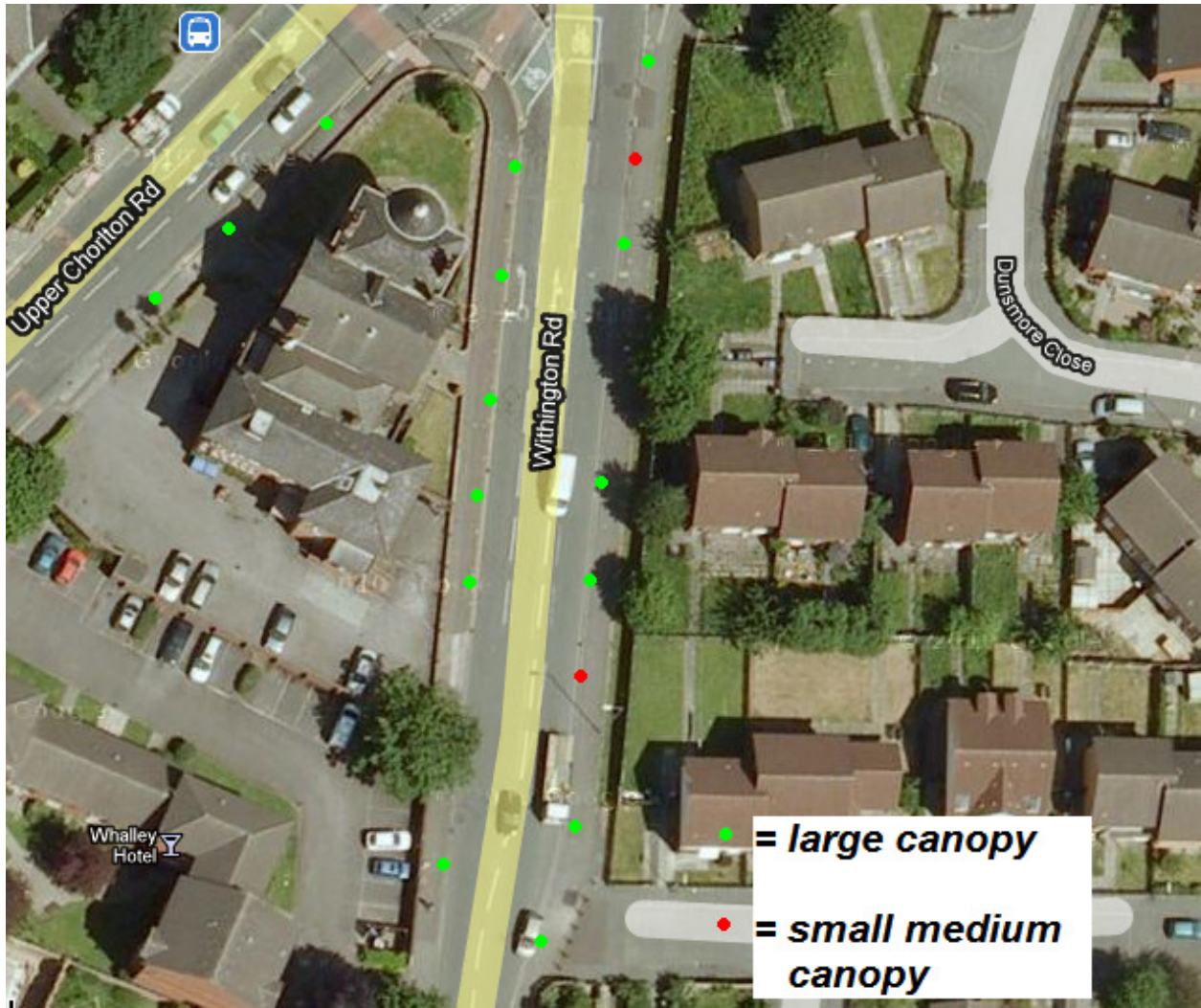
The following locations are suggestions at this stage as a first glance:

1. Whalley Pub and Environs
2. Whalley Range Centre (south)
3. Withington Rd near Wellington Rd

Maps and pictures are included

1. Whalley Pub and Environs

Map



From centre looking downto Whalley Pub along Withington Rd



How it might look with trees



2. Whalley Range Centre (south)

Map



May Rd looking from Withington Rd



How it might look with trees



Range Rd looking to Withington Rd



How it might look with trees



May Rd looking to Withington Rd



How it might look with trees



3. Withington Rd near Wellington Rd

Map



From College Rd looking down Withington Rd to Whalley Range Centre



How it might look with trees



