Whalley Range Tree Group – 170 residents object to current phase of tree fellings

A plan published by Manchester City Council (MCC) will result in the felling of 473 large trees over the next 20 years. This is nearly half the area's population of street trees. Many of those left standing will be relatively young specimens.

Whalley Range Tree Group is requesting a one year delay in tree felling plans with a reallocation of resources towards advance planting in streets and areas which currently have limited tree cover. The Group asks for the following to be addressed before fellings commence on this scale:

1. Show us a robust scientific basis for the timescale and rate of tree felling (MCC have been unable to provide documentation to support their assertion that all of the 473 trees simply <u>must</u> be felled in this time frame)
2. Please can we have a mutually agreed framework for the selection of trees for felling developed in full consultation with Whalley Range residents? (only 4 trees of the 15 identified for felling this year are classified by MCC as over mature)
3. And please let's have a dialogue about the selection of locations and species for replacement trees developed in full consultation with residents.

Visit the website for lots of information, the very latest news and a link to our short video films about the issues:

http://wrtrees.tripod.com

Join the debate and share your views at:

http://whalleyrangetrees.forumotion.co.uk/,

email: wrtrees@gmail.com   phone/text 07940 926333

Why all this fuss over trees?

More trees and bigger specimens means more tree cover (ie, more leaves). We know that sensible tree management means some trees have to be felled as they get older for reasons of safety and so on. But the arguments are in favour of keeping them for as long as possible:

- **Improving air quality** – trees cut the levels of airborne dirt (particulates) and absorb nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and ozone.
- **Providing substantial health benefits** – apart from cutting pollution, trees reduce traffic noise and have been shown to have mental health benefits (symptoms of anxiety, depression and insomnia have been proven to be alleviated).
- **Moderating temperatures** – trees reflect sunlight, provide shade and evaporate water through transpiration.
- **Moderating local microclimates** – urban areas with trees are cooler in summer and warmer in winter and well-positioned trees can improve the environmental performance of buildings, reducing thermal gain in summer.
- **Preserving local wildlife** – by providing a habitat for a range of species, trees aid local biodiversity. Up to 100 different species of invertebrates can live on a mature tree. In turn, these help support local birds and mammals (including owls, woodpeckers, tree creepers, pipistrelle bats and sparrow hawks).
- **Countering climate change** through CO_2 absorption.
- **Reducing the impact of severe weather** including mitigation of flood risk and enhancement of effectiveness of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.
- **Providing local amenity** – people enjoy trees!
- **Conserving property values** – enhancement in property values can be 5-18%. The larger the trees, the greater the value added.