

## Wirral Tree Strategy full public consultation responses

### Do you have any comments about the plans to improve the biodiversity and variety of trees in Wirral?

Answered: 127. Skipped: 117.

Comments (Respondent Number)	Response
Cutting down mature trees is a scandal (4).	Noted.
Reduce/eliminate unnecessary felling. Encourage residents to plant and care for trees. Work with professionals and local groups. Ensure that biodiversity and climate change are right at the top of the agenda. DO MORE (5).	Noted.
You seem to be cutting down trees and defending it with a choice to plant more. But the trees you remove are healthy. What makes us believe the ones you plant will be allowed to be kept. You chopped ten down in our local centre because their branches "might" fall into a local primary school (6).	<p>Comment: Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. The safety of our residents is paramount thus we must be proactive, but the risk is being managed proportionally. The tree stock has not been managed as consistently historically thus there is a necessary felling backlog which is being dealt with and once complete, felling levels will be significantly reduced. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace the number of trees unavoidably lost many times over.</p> <p>The necessary resources will be allocated to maintain the new trees planted as it is our priority that Wirral's tree stock is healthy and that the we double the canopy cover in the long term.</p>
It seems an obvious thing to do, to plant native trees "where possible", though I'd question whether it can truly ever be necessary to use non-native species as street trees, (not that including non-natives in a good mixture is necessarily a bad thing). Of course there should be a great variety of trees planted. I ticked disagree in Q6 because planting 2 or 3 new saplings in no way compensates for the destruction of mature trees. Such planting must be in addition to keeping mature trees. And in Q5, I	<p>Comment: A variety of trees will be planted to create a resilient tree stock. WBC will endeavour to plant native trees but may plant non-native species on certain sites in accordance with the 'right tree for the right place' approach. Protecting mature trees is a priority, and our replanting policy has now changed so the number of replacement trees planted will be determined in relation to the size of the original tree felled in order that the climate benefits will be</p>

feel that 10% seems a low target, even if you actually mean tree-cover should increase TO 10% rather than BY 10% as written, which are quite different things (7).

the same within a reasonable time frame. The canopy cover target has been made clearer with an ambition to plant at least 210,000 trees over the ten year strategy, thereby doubling Wirral's tree canopy cover by the time the new trees are fully grown.

Action: We have amended our replacement policy so that the number of trees planted to replace a felled tree is determined in accordance with the size of the diameter. For instance, a tree with a diameter of less than 29.9cm would be replaced by 2 trees; whereas a tree with a diameter of more than 80cm would be replaced with 8.

Mature trees provide the following; stop felling the existing trees, as of immediate effect. The Council have to understand the destruction that they are endorsing. It is time to put lives before money; -The amenity value of mature trees can be quantified using CAVAT; This Capital Asset Value of Amenity Trees puts a monetary value onto our existing trees. Although all urban trees can and should be valued in such a system. Of course, ecologically trees not surveyed in this system are no less valuable. -Ecosystems are supported within trees, individual and woodland trees. Canopy is optimum habitat sustaining species that could otherwise not exist. (bats and other species dependent on trees are becoming extinct from tree-loss). Removing parts of trees destroys habitat and it is dangerous to the life of the tree. -Trees filter pollutants; Pollution causes miscarriages and birth defects, glaucomas, lung and respiratory diseases, and many other illnesses. -Trees and hedgerows filter out pollutants: 1 metre of hedgerow filters the annual emissions of up to 30 cars (BBC 2019 'Your hedge can Save Your Life'). Removal of hedgerows and trees adds to the danger of pollutants to the population. All schools need to be surrounded by hedgerows. -Trees help to shield harmful radiation -Trees sequester carbon; many hundreds of saplings are required to 'replace' the carbon of just 1 mature tree!...remember tree species live for centuries....A 'replacement programme' of 3 for 1 is obviously ridiculous., Mature trees provide unique ecosystems which cannot be replicated on young trees. -Flood mitigation; tons of water can be held within individual mature trees preventing flooding and soil erosion. - Oxygen production; 1 mature tree can provide enough oxygen for a family of four. -Seed production; Tree species can take

Comment: Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. The safety of our residents is paramount thus we must be proactive, but the risk is being managed proportionally. We appreciate the wide ranging benefits trees provide and CAVAT valuations are being considered. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace the number of trees unavoidably lost many times over. The number of replacement trees planted will be determined in relation to the size of the original tree felled in order that the climate benefits will be the same within a reasonable time frame, rather than simply a '3 for 1' replacement programme.

Action: As above.

<p>decades to grow before they produce seed. Keep planting trees, but it is not an alternative to keeping Wirral's trees (9).</p>	
<p>There is nothing in the stated plan which will fulfil the Council's statutory obligations to protect biodiversity. Improving the variety of trees will not improve biodiversity but offers a likely threat to the existing tree population. What is required is the protection of the remainder of Wirral's tree stock. I refer you to the publication 'About Trees' and the strategy blueprint which will be sent out to those UK Local Authorities who do not have a viable, sustainable or progressive Tree or environmental strategy in place- 'Wirral Tree Strategy-Building Environmental Resilience' (10).</p>	<p>Comment: The strategy acknowledges that WBC is bound by the "biodiversity duty" which states that in exercising its functions it must have regard for conserving biodiversity (Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006). The strategy also states that any planned work on trees or woodland on Council land will take account of biodiversity issues. Improving the variety of tree species will increase taxonomic biodiversity and will not threaten the existing tree stock as appropriate non-invasive species will be selected.</p>
<p>I'm only a resident with an interest in my local environment but with little practical knowledge of the management of trees and biodiversity, or the complexities of policy and governance. Nevertheless, I am glad that Wirral Council are planning to increase the number of trees and woodlands in the area. I have two small comments. I would like the Council to work with expert organisations (Friends of the Earth, The Wildlife Trusts, Woodland Trust etc) - from the Tree Strategy document it looks like they would. I was pleased to see the Tree Strategy document identifies the importance of trees for health, wellbeing and their aesthetic quality as well as in the context of climate change and wildlife biodiversity. There are no trees in our street (we only live in a small terrace house) and I do worry that trees and tree lined roads may become the preserve of the rich. I appreciate that tree siting is complex and some locations may not be suitable for tree planting but if a tree is felled I would like (at least one of) the replacement trees to be planted adjacent (I couldn't determine from the document whether replacement trees are in situ or elsewhere (posher) on the Wirral) (12).</p>	<p>Comment: WBC is working in partnership with key stakeholders such as Wirral Initiative for Trees, Friends of Parks Groups, and with expertise from the Tree Council. Replanting will occur as close to the felled tree(s) as possible, and the more deprived parts of the Wirral will be prioritised for the planting programme to tackle Wirral's socio-economic inequalities.</p>
<p>The tree strategy looks good on the surface but it appears to be a charter for cutting down more mature trees. For every mature tree cut down two trees to replace are not going to compensate for probably a 100 years of growth (14).</p>	<p>Comment: By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance. The number of replacement trees planted will be determined in relation to the size of the original tree felled in order that the climate benefits will be the same within a reasonable time frame. The strategy's main aim is to protect and maintain Wirral's current tree stock, and to increase it so that canopy cover is doubled by the time the trees planted over the course of the strategy are fully grown.</p>

	<p>Action: We have amended our replacement policy so that the number of trees planted to replace a felled tree is determined in accordance with the size of the diameter. For instance, a tree with a diameter of less than 29.9cm would be replaced by 2 trees; whereas a tree with a diameter of more than 80cm would be replaced with 8.</p>
<p>You are currently at it again felling old trees in Royden Park. Replacing them with 3 saplings is in no way sufficient. These saplings will not have the capacity to support much wildlife, stabilise soil or much carbon capture for decades to come. Meanwhile, who monitors their progress? They are often left unprotected from grazing, vandalism &amp; high winds. Just plant &amp; go, with no knowledge of how they'll survive. Also, we are starting to understand how trees in situ are linked in colonies underground, and ripping out the senior trees and randomly replacing them will disturb this too. This report from UCL demonstrates how valuable MATURE trees are. Cutting down mature trees just to save on maintenance - and maybe sell the wood - and replacing with saplings with uncertain future is just not good enough. We need our mature trees now, not in 50 yrs. Climate change is happening NOW. Please desist from cutting down mature trees in Royden Park &amp; elsewhere. <a href="https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2018/jun/uk-urban-forest-can-store-much-carbon-tropical-rainforests">https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2018/jun/uk-urban-forest-can-store-much-carbon-tropical-rainforests</a> (15).</p>	<p>Comment: Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. The safety of our residents is paramount thus we must be proactive, but the risk is being managed proportionally. The tree stock has not been managed as consistently historically thus there is a necessary felling backlog which is being dealt with and once complete, felling levels will lower. This applies to Royden Park as with all our parklands, but ongoing maintenance will be required as noted in this comment that one cannot just 'plant and go'. The strategy recognises that aftercare is equally important to the initial planting. More than three replacement saplings will be planted if the tree felled is a large mature tree to ensure the climate benefits will be the same within a reasonable time frame, and protection will be prioritised as far as possible.</p> <p>Actions: 1 – We have amended our replacement policy so that the number of trees planted to replace a felled tree is determined in accordance with the size of the diameter. For instance, a tree with a diameter of less than 29.9cm would be replaced by 2 trees; whereas a tree with a diameter of more than 80cm would be replaced with 8.</p> <p>2 – We will endeavour to communicate effectively with the local community to give advanced warning and reasoning for planned tree work such as felling.</p>
<p>I have researched tree felling since councils across the UK have been felling trees and strongly object to precautionary felling of mature trees. The mature trees cannot so easily be replaced and flooding is already extensive here. Limited manpower to regularly monitor areas is the cause of this project. One off felling projects is cheaper than employing rangers who know trees and can be aware of risks. Create a low</p>	<p>Comment: Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. The safety of our residents is paramount thus we must be proactive, but the risk is being managed proportionally. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost. Our tree stock is</p>

<p>maintenance; low risk woodland where people are governed by rules on notices rather than careful supervision. This approach produces a sanitised version of nature, not the real thing (16).</p>	<p>routinely monitored by expert Tree Officers as part of the risk assessment process.</p>
<p>Only comment is that as a coastal area with sand, more pine trees should be planted to reflect the unique maritime position of Wirral. So few pine trees are planted these days that once the current stock reaches the end of their natural lives, they will all be gone (17).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>I as a long term resident of Wirral along with many other residents on the Wirral (including West Kirby), have been and are continually very concerned about Wirral Council's continual felling of healthy mature trees every year. The council agree we are in a climatic emergency yet still carry on with en masse tree destruction. Allowing their contractors to cut through healthy mature trees that have taken up to 200 years to grow in a couple of minutes. Council need to understand the importance of PROTECTING what's left of our mature trees not state them as a hazard 'Targeting the public' as recently stated by one of you officers about a healthy safe mature tree locally. The council have cut so many healthy trees down in the past decade here on the Wirral it would take at least two generations to replace. Replacing a felled healthy tree with a young sapling is not the answer. The answer is to call a moratorium on all tree felling, have a full responsible participatory inclusive debate with local residents and such organisations as The Woodland Trust RSPB The Bat Society etc. NOT to give carte blanche authority to their tree cutting contractors who often make wrong decisions that a tree needs to be felled when it is perfectly healthy, Such as the beautiful large mature Beech tree in Ashton Park last year. . We as residents do not feel council listen to local residents across the spectrum yet seem to give precedence to 'Friends Groups' of whom often many members are not always local and certainly not that experienced or knowledgeable about the importance of trees and even the needs of the wildlife. Just because a resident who loves the trees in his or her area is NOT a member of a Friends group should NOT make -their voice or advice/awareness LESS valid or even classed as 'trouble makers'. If it is deemed a tree is to be felled due to a full and proper, unbiased scientific assessment/survey deems it diseased and unrecoverable then wherever possible the tree replacement should be like for like re size for size species for species, not replaced by an ornamental non native . Tree planting by Wirral</p>	<p>Comment: Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. The safety of our residents is paramount thus we must be proactive, but the risk is being managed proportionally. The tree stock has not been managed as consistently historically thus there is a necessary felling backlog which is being dealt with and once complete, felling levels will lower. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace the number of trees unavoidably lost many times over. The number of replacement trees planted will be determined in relation to the size of the original tree felled in order that the climate benefits will be the same within a reasonable time frame.</p> <p>This large-scale planting will meet the demands of our Environment and Climate Change Emergency through the associated carbon dioxide sequestration. Protection and preservation of our woodland and trees is a priority. The Tree Strategy has been written in collaboration with key local stakeholders such as Wirral Initiative for Trees, Friends of Parks Groups, and groups such as the Merseyside &amp; West Lancashire Bat Group and the general public have been consulted via this public consultation.</p> <p>Actions: 1 – We have amended our replacement policy so that the number of trees planted to replace a felled tree is determined in accordance with the size of the diameter. For instance, a tree with a diameter of less than 29.9cm would be replaced by 2 trees; whereas a tree with a diameter of more than 80cm would be replaced with 8.</p>

<p>council over the last decades has been at a disgraceful minimum and the continual assault on healthy mature trees is a national disgrace. Many people are aware and suspicious the council have a hidden policy to fell mature trees for a few main reasons 1/To make way for the 5g test bed roll out as tree canopies can interfere with the signals. 2/ To reduce manpower hours or save on manpower hours for leaf sweeping. Council Officers and managers need to do a 180 degree turnaround and walk the talk and show they care for our trees by calling a moratorium on all felling NOW (18).</p>	<p>2 – We will endeavour to communicate effectively with the local community to give advanced warning and reasoning for planned tree work such as felling.</p>
<p>The Strategy is clearly drawn up with the assistance of tree fellers and timber merchants. It pays lip-service to planting while continuing to fell valuable, ancient and irreplaceable trees. The strategy is financially driven and is certainly not for our safety. The Council is paying for companies to fell and sell our trees or make way for 5G masts. No tree should be felled under any circumstance. The removal of any tree is directly negatively affecting bio-diversity. Even a rotted tree has a valuable contribution to play in biodiversity. If necessary a sign should be placed on the tree or sectioned off to indicate it could pose (all bar an extremely remote) danger in high winds if safety is a genuine concern (21).</p>	<p>Comment: The Tree Strategy has been written in collaboration with key local stakeholders such as Wirral Initiative for Trees, Friends of Parks Groups, and with expertise from the Tree Council. The safety of our residents is paramount thus trees are felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost.</p>
<p>Q6 - has no comment box - but I would like to say here that there is a wide divide between what is stated in the tree strategy on tree felling and what is happening on the ground at the present time. Mature trees are being felled which are not necessarily "end of life" trees - whatever that phrase means, and not all are by any means near roads where they could be a danger to the public. It seems that money is being made whereby the timber is being sent to the biomass facility by Mancoed on Deeside. If trees need to be felled because they are a danger, they should be left in situ to rot down - a process hugely beneficial to the natural environment. This would then also prove to the public that our mature trees are not being treated as a cash crop. Q7 - Biodiversity will be improved by leaving mature trees we already have (unless, of course they are found to have real reasons for felling, due to public safety) in addition to planting . But planting needs to be done on an ambitious scale with native species - all according to suitability of site - also some public orchards in odd corners - like the one in Willaston (23).</p>	<p>Comment: Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. The safety of our residents is paramount thus we must be proactive, but the risk is being managed proportionally. Deadwood is left to rot in situ where possible, and trees are never felled for economic gain. By planting 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy and doubling canopy cover by the time they are fully grown, we are being ambitious and the right tree for the right place is the mantra of the strategy.</p>

Avoid non native if possible (25).	Noted.
<p>although the planting of new tree is a good idea in that it is helping an area where severe weather conditions has felled trees. However it takes many years for young saplings to grow and become established and there is no certainty that they will reach maturity. Therefore they will have little effect on air pollution as the mature trees (26).</p>	<p>Comment: Whilst replacing felled trees is an important part of the Tree Strategy, the intended emphasis is on planting additional trees. In committing to planting 210,000 over the next ten years, we will replace any felled trees many times over and lay the foundations for a healthy tree stock for future generations.</p>
<p>There should be much more emphasis on the planting of native trees in Wirral, and we should be using stock propagated from local trees where possible. Native stock is such that there is a suitable tree for every situation without using species from other countries, and in so doing we will also be helping preserve far more insect, bird and fungal species that with non-natives (27).</p>	<p>Comment: A variety of trees will be planted to create a resilient tree stock. WBC will endeavour to plant native trees but may plant non-native species on certain sites in accordance with the 'right tree for the right place' approach.</p>
Anything but Conifers (30).	Noted.
<p>In relation to this 'tree strategy' - Page 1: When is the tree 'risk' management coming out? Page 2: The 10 year 'strategy' is way too short-term. Page 3: 10% tree cover in 10 years is woefully inadequate. In fact, at the rate trees in Wirral are being felled the numbers going into the ground won't make up for the felling. Page 4: What are the interests of Magenta Housing and the Wirral Chamber of Commerce in relation to our existing tree stock and the new tree strategy? Who are the stakeholders? Page 6: The claim that trees are assessed for wildlife is untrue: trees have been felled with nesting birds in Spring 2019. Page 7: Trees are rarely hazardous, even those sick &amp; dying. What in your view constitutes a hazard? Who makes the final decision? Trees are not a 'nuisance'. They do not 'interfere' with buildings with foundations. Page 9: Why plant new trees when we have big beauties that already exist? Stop felling our trees in the first place then there won't be the need to plant more trees. Page 10: TPO's should include hedges &amp; vegetation. These provide shelter and food for birds. The woodland floor cannot support life without vegetation &amp; hedges. TPO's require urgent action to be truly effective policies in deterrent. Fines for tree felling is woeful. 'As far as possible' - what does this mean? You could just not cut the trees down in the first place. Page 11: What is an 'exceptional reason' to cut down a tree? Dead &amp; dying trees still play a vital role in ecology. What is the suitable compensation strategy? No, do NOT remove irreplaceable habitats. Page 13: Leave sick trees in place. Stronger trees help to build up immunity of weaker, sick trees. Page</p>	Noted.

14: Pollarding & pruning weakens healthy trees making them sick. They are best left alone. Sick and dying mature trees are still able to absorb CO2 for many years. Tree surgeons too, are not always as well qualified as made out to fell or pollard trees. Page 15: Contractors have only their own interests at heart & not all of them are specialists. Communicating with stakeholders? Who? Why? Joe Public has no forewarning until the felling has occurred. Tree Legacy para: planting young trees won't mitigate against CO2. We need to keep the stock of trees we have! Stop cutting them down. In places where trees are thriving in green spaces, leave naturally planted trees to grow. This will create woodlands for the future. Last para represents your argument for leaving trees in place - mature trees absorb CO2 emissions so leave them in place! Page 16: If we cannot value street trees, don't plant them. 'Planting where possible' - Plant semi-mature trees in all parks and any green space there is, preferably in groups. This makes for stronger trees. Development: Trees should never be lost to development, they are way too valuable for us and Nature. Like-for-like replacement will be non-effective; saplings do not absorb CO2. Planting ornamental trees will be non-effective. Box 5: Brilliant! Include regenerating meadows & more native trees. Page 17: Replacement trees in any development is short-sighted. Planting 3x saplings for one mature tree is non-effective. Where is the Local Plan? How long will the Local Plan stretch to? Date? Page 19, Box 7: 8:38; Who is going to police this? 8:41; loopholes will occur that will be utilised by those wishing to harm or fell our trees. Page 20-21: East Wirral is extremely poor in trees, grass, vegetation. Need to save what little there is. Arguments for trees providing cover & reducing heat in our warmer climate. Page 21: Public transport limited. Need to rethink spaces for trees & flowers. Page 23: More arboreal specialists needed with Up-to-Date knowledge of trees, vegetation and how they interlink with each other and the eco-system. There is too much disconnected thinking. How can you care for trees with out-of-date knowledge? Page 24: Box 11; Wirral should not have tree wardens. These people, well-intentioned as they are, are not ecologists. Wirral needs to invest in ecologists with skills that includes trees but extends to the wider environment for the sake of trees, Nature and us. \*Ram-rod trees, even sick and dying trees do not fall down (31).



The Draft Wirral Tree Strategy so far reads as a document drawn up, with the help of tree fellers and timber merchants, to pay some lip-service to planting (which is coming from central gov. directives anyway) while continuing to fell Wirral's valuable trees. Please do not patronise us ...we are not fools; tree REMOVAL is clearly financially driven and is NOT for 'our safety'. The Council either pays for someone to 'fell and sell' our valuable trees OR they care for US by keeping them as our heritage to pass onto our children and future generations. We all need to breathe! Tree removal IS removal of bio-diversity. Increase bio-diversity by LEAVING TREES ALONE. If a tree has a rotted limb place signage on/near it explaining how it is valuable to our wildlife to retain the limb, but it may be better to avoid standing under it in extreme weather conditions. If a tree is leaning (like the WK concourse tree that had had it's roots damaged through digging a utilities trench beside it)...provide it with PROPS. How dare the Council try and suggest that we are safer without these trees. .What attempts have been made to SAVE the Royden Park and the Mayer Park trees felled THIS WEEK; December 2019?The Council need to adopt a strategy such as the one written by For Trees Wirral called 'About Trees' which they apparently have been sent...it is far more bio-diversity friendly and well thought out, and offers a comprehensive approach to trees and tree care. VALUE WIRRAL'S TREES;...and all their associated wildlife-Have a blanket tree protection for all mature trees.-Allow trees with diseased limbs or standing deadwoods to remain INTACT. Use surround fencing if necessary in order to keep the tree(s)-Do not chip or transport diseased timber ; allow recovery from infection and disease by leaving the trees undisturbed within the natural ecology. -Have processes of prosecution that de-incentivises felling. Learn from practices of other local authorities who prosecute with fines of e.g. £50,000 for tree removal.-Prosecute for habitat loss/increased flood liability/etc from tree removal.-Do not employ people with qualifications in tree-felling and vested interests in removing our timber to 'look after' our trees.-Use CAVAT systems to VALUE our tree resources as they stand and grow. They are our inheritance. The Council's role in this Climate Emergency is vital: - Educate the public that trees which are flagged as 'dropping leaves' or 'blocking light' or 'spoiling the view' will pale into insignificance when we can't breathe for lack of oxygen, and heavy pollutants are killing our

Comment: WBC is committed to protecting and increasing biodiversity and will therefore plant a wider range of genera and species and encourage natural regeneration where possible. The strategy also states that any planned work on trees or woodland on council land will take account of biodiversity issues for example bird nests and bat roosts are screened for. All staff dealing with trees whether in a planning, landscape, design, highway, safety or operational context will hold the relevant skills, experience and qualifications to undertake their particular roles and that our skilled ranger will train others in woodland management skills. A comprehensive review of TPOs and their enforcement will ensure those who unlawfully remove trees are prosecuted and that any new TPOs deemed necessary are introduced. Deadwood is left in situ where it is safe and possible to do so, particularly if it is judged to be ecologically valuable for invertebrates and will only be removed if there are safety concerns. The first outcome of the strategy is to support a survey of all Wirral's trees to form a single data base using i-tree eco and i-tree canopy surveys, and CAVAT valuations are being considered. Street planting on marginal land such as grassy verges is a key part of the strategy. In terms of educating the general public, the strategy commits to sharing information more widely with interested groups, individuals and the general public and encouraging residents to get involved with local tree planting efforts to raise awareness of the importance of trees. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance. All appropriate guidance including the Tree Council's toolkit will be followed when responding to diseases such as ash dieback, as detailed in Appendix 5 of the Tree Strategy, and the Woodland Trust have been involved with the strategy as an external partner.

<p>(unborn) babies and elderly, (already 40,000 pollutant related deaths a year and huge increases in pollutant-linked miscarriage) and our wildlife is becoming extinct. -Street-tree planting; Plant-up our streets and educate people to look after the trees outside their homes (i.e. not damage roots or relentlessly prune)-Fallen leaves can be swept up rather than blown with petrol leaf-blowers. - Educate why the Council have banned toxins such as glyphosate in order to protect the public/dogs and wildlife from related cancers and poisoning-Litigate to stop private tree-fellers touting their door-to-door business to cut and fell private garden trees. -Place signage as to the VALUE of trees for the canopy habitat that is provided. That because trees are tall they are NOT dangerous. Again...we are not stupid and we do not need to be patronised by the council trying to claim that they are "carrying out felling and works on trees for our own safety". -Stop spending our public money on actively destroying our environment. We need MORE trees not less.-Promote an onus of responsibility onto people with garden space or private land to plant trees and hedgerows for the sake of us all.- Educate the 'friends' groups of our borough's parks that trees are VITAL to our health and must be saved at any cost rather than felled. And that there is a legal duty of care to RETAIN our trees and ecosystems, especially as so many of our gardens are now paved over. Our parks with canopy vegetation are our boroughs LUNGS.-Educate that cutting all shrubbery's to knee-high is NOT conducive to encouraging bio-diversity; e.g. birds need to nest ABOVE predator height.-Educate that mature trees and all the wildlife therein cannot be "replaced" by planting a few spindly sapling trees.-Actively encourage 're-wilding'...it does exactly that....enables wildlife to re-establish (32).</p>	
<p>Saplings should be sourced locally (33).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Need more professional technical advice to individuals and organisations who are willing to engage in this process (35).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Suggest a phased application of an area or blanket TPO for the Conservation Areas of Mountwood, Oxton, Eastham and Lower Heswall. Please advise if this has been included within the strategy (36).</p>	<p>Tree Protection Orders (TPO) are applied to protect selected trees and woodlands that bring significant amenity benefit to the local area such that their removal would have a significant negative impact on the local environment and its enjoyment by the public. This protection is particularly important where trees are under threat. All types of tree (but not bushes or shrubs) can be protected, and a TPO can protect anything from a single tree to all</p>

trees within a defined area or woodland. Under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 and Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012, local authorities have a duty to apply TPOs to any trees or woodlands in need of protection. Before authorities make or confirm an order, however, they need to ensure that they are able to demonstrate that protection would bring a reasonable degree of public benefit in the present or future, thereby evidencing that it is expedient to serve a TPO.

Conservation areas (CA) refer to areas with significant architectural or historic interest which is considered worthy of preservation and/or enhancement. CAs mandate a precautionary approach to the loss or alteration of buildings and/or trees, and provide provisional legal protection for all trees (with a stem diameter of more than 75 mm, when measured at 1.5 metres height above ground level) within the defined area. CAs achieve this by requiring anyone proposing to cut down or carry out work on a tree within the CA to issue a 'section 211 notice' at least six weeks' prior to commencing, except for the following activities: (i) removal of dead trees; (ii) the prevention or abatement of (legal) nuisance; and, (iii) the implementation of planning permission. This six-week notice period enables the relevant local authority to make an assessment and apply a TPO, if necessary. In effect, CAs provide provisional protection for all trees (with a stem diameter of more than 75 mm, when measured at 1.5 metres height above ground level) within the defined area which are not covered by a TPO and reserve the right for local authorities to apply TPO to any trees under threat within a CA. Importantly, if a tree or group of trees within a CA is already protected by a TPO, normal TPO procedures apply, *i.e.*, a 'section 211 notice' cannot be used to attain consent to perform work on TPO protected trees.

Whilst TPOs provide definitive protection for trees, then, CAs provide the same level of protection for all trees (with a stem diameter of more than 75 mm, when measured at 1.5 metres height above ground level) within the CA on a provisional basis, and necessitate a notice period sufficient to allow local authorities to apply TPO, if necessary. Unless trees within a CA are under

	<p>immediate threat, then, blanket applications of TPOs are unnecessary and – rather than highlighting the importance particular trees within a CA – would dilute the exceptional status that TPOs are designed to recognise. Indeed, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) explicitly advises against using TPOs to protect entire areas, except in the event of an emergency: area protection under a TPO ‘is intended for short term protection in an emergency and may not be capable of providing appropriate long-term protection. Authorities are advised to only use this category as a temporary measure until they can fully assess and reclassify the trees in the area’ (paragraph 029 (reference ID:36-029-20140306)). Moreover, before applying a TPO, local authorities need to be able to demonstrate that doing so that a TPO would bring a reasonable degree of public benefit in the present or future, thereby evidencing that it is expedient to serve a TPO. In cases where trees are already protected under CAs and are under no immediate threat, Wirral Council would be unable to demonstrate that working on CA-covered trees would pose a significant threat to the amenity of the area, and, as such, would be unable to demonstrate the expediency of a TPO. Applying TPOs under these circumstances could be viewed as overreach and expose Wirral Council to legal challenges through the courts.</p> <p>Nonetheless, Wirral Council is committed to vigorously enforcing all infringements of TPO’s and Conservation Area protections, and, as part of the Tree Strategy, will perform a comprehensive review of existing TPOs and CAs to reassess historical orders and potentially implement new TPOs deemed necessary to protect trees which are not already covered under CAs.</p> <p>Action: Perform a comprehensive review of existing TPOs and CAs to reassess historical orders and potentially implement new TPOs deemed necessary to protect trees which are not already covered under CAs.</p>
<p>Honestly I don't think this plan is radical enough. I realise this is going to be an expensive strategy, but I don't think 10% is enough, nor 2 for 1 replacement (43).</p>	<p>The canopy cover target has been changed and made more ambitious with an ambition to plant at least 210,000 trees over the</p>

	<p>ten year strategy, thereby doubling Wirral's tree canopy cover by the time the new trees are fully grown.</p> <p>We have amended our replacement policy so that the number of trees planted to replace a felled tree is determined in accordance with the size of the diameter. For instance, a tree with a diameter of less than 29.9cm would be replaced by 2 trees; whereas a tree with a diameter of more than 80cm would be replaced with 8.</p>
<p>Friends of parks groups should have had in - put into formulation of this strategy from an early stage. Consideration of the role of the public park should have taken place and proposals put forward on an evidential basis. Paucity of scientific rather than emotional rationales makes the proposed strategy seriously flawed. More research needed! (44).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Grow palm trees along the promenade at New Brighton towards Leasowe as there are types that are storm resistant and will provide more green coverage along an otherwise bare seafront (47).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Obviously any plans to increase biodiversity is to be welcomed. But it's the implementation that is the key (48).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Improving biodiversity will add to the visual amenity provided by trees (49).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>NO HOWEVER I have noticed that you have taken trees down and not replaced them . . . you state you will replace the tree but do not state where the tree will be - is it in another location or the same place?? from what I can see the tree comes down and is not replaced? (51).</p>	<p>Felled trees will be replaced in due course. The number of replacement trees planted will be determined in relation to the size (e.g., a tree with a diameter of less than 29.9cm would be replaced by 2 trees; whereas a tree with a diameter of more than 80cm would be replaced with 8) of the original tree felled in order that the climate benefits will be the same within a reasonable time frame. Trees will generally be replaced in the same location but in some circumstances a nearby location may be more practical and appropriate.</p>
<p>As many deciduous as practicable (52).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>We would be interested in any plans for a plantation near Heswall (56).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Plant a wide variety including fruit trees (58).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Very happy for more trees but please do NOT cut mature healthy Trees down in Royden Park unless they are full of disease or dad I disagree with your proposed tree felling in Royden Park (61).</p>	<p>Felled trees will be replaced in due course. The number of replacement trees planted will be determined in relation to the size of the original tree felled in order that the climate benefits will be the same within a reasonable time frame. Trees will generally be replaced in the same location but in some circumstances a nearby location may be more practical and appropriate.</p>

<p>Giant redwoods should be planted like in Hampshire new forest, it's a tourist attraction plus reduces co2 (62).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Planting saplings will not replace the mature (65).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>A great idea but must include all types of three (67).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Get them in urban areas (68).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>types of trees and shrubs: native, wide range and friendly for birds and pollinators; - pavements have a lot of potential for planting trees; - quite a lot of grass areas/lawns (council owned) could be used to plant trees, shrubs and wild flowers; - encourage institutions such as schools, residential homes and housing associations to plant trees; (69).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>The Strategy fails to mention tree management in parks and the planning of urban park maintenance through Management Plans. Urban parks are managed environments and trees need to be managed as part of an environment to promote trees, shrubs, flowers (cultivated and wild), public amenity, sports, heritage and landscape quality. Maintenance cuts have led to the spread of inappropriate species in parks like sycamore, holm oak and holly which are leading to dark and dead areas under over-mature tree canopies in our urban parks. These also complete with and affect the shape and quality of our mature and newly planted trees in our parks with mature as well as young sapling sycamores growing into and competing with wonderful pine, whitebeam, beech trees etc. This needs consideration under the umbrella of the Management Plan of the "right tree in the right place" including occasional felling of trees on other than safety grounds to protect the quality of our heritage trees and allow new tree planting to grow as well to protect the visual amenity of our parks through shrubberies, flower beds and wildflowers. Such parks as Birkenhead Park and Ashton Park need careful management of trees for these reasons. This is part of loving and nurturing trees and is sound management of our tree stock. Therefore the Strategy MUST make specific mention of management of trees in our urban parks - it does not at present and is therefore a flawed document preventing our Parks function from properly managing our parks. There are 5 mentions of the word "Park" in the text only: none of these relevant to this point. Some trees felled under a Park Management Plan don't need replacing if the tree population is too dense. It is not clear if the "two new trees for one tree felled" rule applies in the same location: in an urban park this may not be appropriate in</p>	<p>Comment: Maintaining our existing tree stock and managing newly planted trees is the priority of the Tree Strategy to ensure Wirral's trees are healthy and its canopy cover is doubled by the time the trees planted are fully grown. The strategy recognises that aftercare is equally important to the initial planting and our tree stock is routinely monitored by our internal Tree Officers as part of the risk assessment process. A separate procedural document specifically regarding tree maintenance is forthcoming and will be made available to the public. The strategy recognises there are exceptional reasons to fell and that there are complexities to the 'right tree for the right place' approach hence WBC will work with partners to identify the 'right place'. Trees will generally be replaced in the same location but in some circumstances a nearby location may be more practical and appropriate. Conservation areas are now referenced in the strategy and the canopy cover target has been clarified. The vision is to double canopy cover by the time the trees planted over the course of the strategy are fully grown (requiring a minimum of 21,000 planted per year) and this will be measured using i-tree eco and i-tree canopy surveys. The importance of place-making and creating woodland valuable to local communities is recognised and promoting biodiversity by planting a range of tree species is integral to the strategy.</p>

<p>every case in a well-treed park and may lead to planting on grassed areas including flower beds or replanting at too close a spacing. Should we not be mentioning that some trees needs controlling like sycamores in the Tree Strategy which is invasive? This management also applies to trees round allotments where roots affect people's plots and shade out crops. The Tree Strategy does mention TPO's rightly but this is no mention of trees in Conservation Areas: a section of this needs to be included as this a serious omission. The plan talks about raising tree cover by a minimum of 10% by 2030 but does not say how this is to be measured - amount of tree canopy, number of trees or ?? This needs to be made clear. This should not be at the expense of good quality agricultural land which we need to produce food: neither should it prejudice areas of natural beauty, areas of nature value and SSSI's. New planting needs to fit into the landscape: trees are only one part of the landscape despite their desirability. It should also promote environmental diversity. The Tree Strategy needs to be reviewed for these points to allow it to reflect the wider needs of our land use - to cover parks and allotments and protect Conservation Areas. The Strategy is to be supported - we all value and love trees but that requires management by Wirral Council in all its aspects and this issue needs to be added in as a priority in consultation with parks managers and Friends Groups. Please don't forget this important and valued element of our landscape (70).</p>	
<p>Should be aiming much much higher! (71).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Use a member of the council regeneration team to fertilise each replacement tree (73).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>The council are cutting down strong healthy trees and am totally disgusted with them. I voted labour again in a hope that they would think about the environment and help put things right. They are doing the opposite!! Strong healthy trees bring cut down but being replaced by smaller ones which will take years and years to grow in to anything like the size of the ones they are cutting down!!! The smaller trees will not produce enough gasses as one of the older ones. Children and adults will not be able to see trees like the ones that are being cut down for generations!! Totally disgusted!!! (75).</p>	<p>Comment: Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. The safety of our residents is paramount thus we must be proactive, but the risk is being managed proportionally. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost. Preserving mature trees will be prioritised as far as possible, and when trees must be felled, the number of replacement trees planted will be determined in relation to the size of the original tree felled in order that the climate benefits will be the same within a reasonable time frame.</p>

<p>The problem that I see is that trees appear to be being cut in anticipation of them reaching the end of their lives while still being healthy. This has been seen in Royden Park and New Ferry shore. We need large, venerable trees and they can't just be replaced by saplings in a like for like swap. I also disagree with felled trees being removed from site and chipped. Dead wood is a haven for invertebrates, fungi, mosses, rodents and other species. The decaying material also provides food for the surrounding trees. It is a vital part of the cycle of woodland, and by removing it, you are weakening the ecosystem as a whole (76).</p>	<p>Comment: Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost. Replacement planting will be proportional, with the number of replacement trees planted determined in relation to the size of the original tree felled in order that the climate benefits will be the same within a reasonable time frame. The strategy recognises the benefits that deadwood provides. Deadwood is left in situ where it is safe and possible to do so, particularly if it is judged to be ecologically valuable for invertebrates and will only be removed if there are safety concerns.</p>
<p>STOP FELLING TREES (77).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>The statement on the front of this survey suggests Wirral Council really understand that trees are important but the number of trees that have been cut down recently says otherwise. Replacing a mature tree with three saplings is not the answer when it takes years before they are mature - very rarely does a tree fall and is of any danger to anyone. Yes branches might need to be polled but not whole trees cut down. Wirral Council should be planting more trees (native to the area) anyway not just a replacement (78).</p>	<p>Comment: WBC greatly values its tree stock and plans to expand it significantly over the ten years of the Tree Strategy. Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost so the planting plans go far beyond simple replacement. WBC recognises the benefits of planting native trees thus we will endeavour to plant native trees and trees that will grow to a large size as appropriate to each individual site.</p>
<p>I strongly support increasing biodiversity. I'm extremely concerned about the felling of nature trees in Royden park. This seems totally unnecessary (83).</p>	<p>Comment: WBC is committed to protecting and increasing biodiversity and will therefore plant a wider range of genera and species and encourage natural regeneration where possible. Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. The tree stock has not been managed as consistently historically thus there is a necessary felling backlog which is being dealt with and once complete, felling levels will lower.</p>
<p>Mature trees need to be maintained. There must be real consideration in keeping as many mature trees as possible and not simply felling them. Planting new trees is important. Keeping and maintaining ancient trees is just as, if not more important (84).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Stop any new house building on flood planes and plant trees instead!! (86).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>



<p>Let's plant some Giant sequoia (giant redwoods) 1. They grow the faster 2. They remove the most CO2 from the atmosphere 3. They are a massive tourist boosting tree in the parts of the U.K. they have already been planted (88).</p>	<p>Comment: Tree species planting suggestions will be considered as part of the planting planning process. Although not native, a Giant sequoia is not an impossibility as they are widely planted as specimen trees in the UK.</p>
<p>I believe it is essential for the future well being of every person to improve tree cover and biodiversity (89).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Councils have an obligation to protect trees. By felling and removing parts of trees, Councils are already operating in breach of the law. The Wildlife and Countryside act 1991 makes it an offense to carry out works on trees wilfully during the nesting season. Probable bat roosts are being felled with no bat surveys being carried out. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act of 2006 states that Councils and local authorities have a statutory duty to protect biodiversity, as is the law according to the European and Habitats Directive; making environmental protection a legal obligation. The Council has a duty to make provision for the preservation of trees and woodlands. According to the Aarhus Convention to which Britain is a signatory, there is an obligation to educate the public about the natural environment. This education should be a TRUTHFUL reflection of the risks of tree loss, and the realistic effects on climate change from removing our mature trees. There is a lack of education as to the VALUE of trees and this extends to private loggers and felling companies touting for business at schools, care homes, etc. A blanket TPO approach is necessary with full and effective prosecutions for tree removal. These prosecutions need to be extended to planning development sites to prevent land being bought and mass vegetation felling and clearance routinely carried out PRIOR to submitting planning applications. Tree planting is essential to the survival of our planet; spending public monies on the felling and removal of trees is a destructive and out-dated concept that has allowed profiteering of timber companies at the expense of the health of the public (40,000 people in our country die of polluted air- tree-felling removes our filtering systems) and our ecology. In accordance with recommendations by the Woodland Trust; NO diseased timber should be chipped or transported from site. Studies show that plant disease is best tackled by natural regeneration (Nature Ecology &amp; Evolution). Further to this, no logging companies should be employed by the</p>	<p>Comment: Protecting, preserving, and expanding Wirral's tree stock is a key priority of the Tree Strategy. Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. The safety of our residents is paramount thus we must be proactive, but the risk is being managed proportionally. WBC follows the guidance of the National Tree Safety Group (supported by the Health and Safety Executive). Felling is never carried out for financial gain. The strategy acknowledges that WBC is bound by the "biodiversity duty" which states that in exercising its functions it must have regard for conserving biodiversity (Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006). The strategy also states that any planned work on trees or woodland on council land will take account of biodiversity issues for example bird nests and bat roosts are screened for. In terms of educating the general public, the strategy commits to sharing information more widely with interested groups, individuals and the general public and encouraging residents to get involved with local tree planting efforts.</p> <p>Tree Protection Orders (TPO) are applied to protect selected trees and woodlands that bring significant amenity benefit to the local area such that their removal would have a significant negative impact on the local environment and its enjoyment by the public. This protection is particularly important where trees are under threat. All types of tree (but not bushes or shrubs) can be protected, and a TPO can protect anything from a single tree to all trees within a defined area or woodland. Under the Town &amp; Country Planning Act 1990 and Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012, local authorities have a duty to apply TPOs to any trees or woodlands in need of protection. Before authorities make or confirm an order, however, they need to ensure that they are able to demonstrate that</p>

Council to fell trees/ remove limbs and profit from harvesting public trees. Nor should members of the public be allowed to harvest felled timbers from sites. Tree-care should remain 'in-house' with Council workers CARING for mature trees; fencing them or supporting them where appropriate, but essentially allowing them to grow to their NATURAL shapes and states to include all the associated ecology. Leaves should be swept and mulched NOT blown with loud polluting petrol-guzzling apparatus. The HSE (Health and Safety Executive) now recognise that any 'risk' below 1 in 1 million is classed as insignificant or negligible risk: HSE have death or serious injury from trees as 1 in 150 million. Mature trees provide an invaluable asset in the fight against climate change, flood prevention, O<sub>2</sub> production, carbon sequestration, pollution filtration etc. and bring overwhelming benefits to local communities in terms of both clean air for public health and quality of life for residents. Their contribution to bio-diversity is tremendously significant. The felling of mature trees for accident prevention purposes is entirely misguided, serving as much purpose as would knocking down all buildings in order to prevent the potential for falling roof tiles and masonry in a storm. Researchers discovered that older trees (around 120years+) didn't grow old, weaken, bow and become fragile then slow down - the opposite happened: older trees grow more quickly are full of energy and are highly productive and more effective carbon sequesters than young trees. (Wohleben, 2016)Wirral Council needs to survey all its trees with a view to their PRESERVATION; such as using i-tree and measuring CAVAT values (Capital Asset Value of Amenity Trees). We have to learn from good practice (for example Madrid's Tree Strategy and management where streets and parks are lined with many hollow veteran trees fitted with 'bat caging' (to admit bats but protect from predators or humans) and tall trees on roundabouts are anchored with cables, etc). Looking after our mature trees allows the ecology to look after itself (92).

protection would bring a reasonable degree of public benefit in the present or future, thereby evidencing that it is expedient to serve a TPO.

Conservation areas (CA) refer to areas with significant architectural or historic interest which is considered worthy of preservation and/or enhancement. CAs mandate a precautionary approach to the loss or alteration of buildings and/or trees, and provide provisional legal protection for all trees (with a stem diameter of more than 75 mm, when measured at 1.5 metres height above ground level) within the defined area. CAs achieve this by requiring anyone proposing to cut down or carry out work on a tree within the CA to issue a 'section 211 notice' at least six weeks' prior to commencing, except for the following activities: (i) removal of dead trees; (ii) the prevention or abatement of (legal) nuisance; and, (iii) the implementation of planning permission. This six-week notice period enables the relevant local authority to make an assessment and apply a TPO, if necessary. In effect, CAs provide provisional protection for all trees (with a stem diameter of more than 75 mm, when measured at 1.5 metres height above ground level) within the defined area which are not covered by a TPO and reserve the right for local authorities to apply TPO to any trees under threat within a CA. Importantly, if a tree or group of trees within a CA is already protected by a TPO, normal TPO procedures apply, *i.e.*, a 'section 211 notice' cannot be used to attain consent to perform work on TPO protected trees.

Whilst TPOs provide definitive protection for trees, then, CAs provide the same level of protection for all trees (with a stem diameter of more than 75 mm, when measured at 1.5 metres height above ground level) within the CA on a provisional basis, and necessitate a notice period sufficient to allow local authorities to apply TPO, if necessary. Unless trees within a CA are under immediate threat, then, blanket applications of TPOs are unnecessary and – rather than highlighting the importance particular trees within a CA – would dilute the exceptional status that TPOs are designed to recognise. Indeed, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) explicitly advises against using TPOs to protect entire areas, except in the event of an emergency:

	<p>area protection under a TPO 'is intended for short term protection in an emergency and may not be capable of providing appropriate long-term protection. Authorities are advised to only use this category as a temporary measure until they can fully assess and reclassify the trees in the area' (paragraph 029 (reference ID:36-029-20140306)). Moreover, before applying a TPO, local authorities need to be able to demonstrate that doing so that a TPO would bring a reasonable degree of public benefit in the present or future, thereby evidencing that it is expedient to serve a TPO. In cases where trees are already protected under CAs and are under no immediate threat, Wirral Council would be unable to demonstrate that working on CA-covered trees would pose a significant threat to the amenity of the area, and, as such, would be unable to demonstrate the expediency of a TPO. Applying TPOs under these circumstances could be viewed as overreach and expose Wirral Council to legal challenges through the courts.</p> <p>Nonetheless, Wirral Council is committed to vigorously enforcing all infringements of TPO's and Conservation Area protections, and, as part of the Tree Strategy, will perform a comprehensive review of existing TPOs and CAs to reassess historical orders and potentially implement new TPOs deemed necessary to protect trees which are not already covered under CAs.</p> <p>In line with best practice, diseased timber is not chipped or moved. Internal tree officers manage Wirral's tree stock and sense-check surveyor's recommendations, so tree care is 'in house' as far as possible. The first outcome of the strategy is to support a survey of all Wirral's trees to form a single data base using i-tree eco and i-tree canopy surveys. WBC recognises the wide-ranging social and environmental benefits trees provide.</p>
<p>Mature trees do not need to be managed or cut down. Statistically they pose absolutely no threat to human health (compared to say the risk of falling masonry) and are the greatest source of biodiversity available. It is not valid to say that replanting with new trees (whips) replaces the rich diversity available from mature trees (94).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>I cannot understand why the council is suddenly felling so many wonderful trees. I thought the idea of protecting the air quality and</p>	<p>Comment: Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. The</p>

<p>contributing to the prevention of climate change included maintaining our woodland and trees wherever they are whilst planting new trees as well. It will be years before the young trees attain the level of benefit of old trees (95).</p>	<p>safety of our residents is paramount thus we must be proactive, but the risk is being managed proportionally. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance.</p>
<p>I use this box as there isn't a box for the previous question 6. The "management of trees" in box 1 should include an ecologist / bat expert. Merseyside and West Lancashire bat group should also be included in the stakeholders / groups with expertise list (97).</p>	<p>Comment: Merseyside &amp; West Lancashire Bat Group are one of the key stakeholders who have been consulted as part of this process and are now included as contributors.</p>
<p>Firstly, we need to be more ambitious with our targets for tree cover. 1% a year is woefully inadequate in view of potentially catastrophic climate emergency. Diversity is good, natives are the first line approach here due to their potential for larger canopy. The strategy also needs to encourage both hedge planting and orchards, both of which could be incorporated into educational strategies in schools and colleges (101).</p>	<p>Comment: The tree canopy cover target has been made more ambitious with the new commitment to plant at least 210,000 trees over the ten-years of the strategy, thereby doubling Wirral's tree canopy cover by the time the new trees are fully grown. Hedges and orchards are referenced in the strategy.</p>
<p>Native trees should be considered as a first line of approach: the proposals for non-natives reduces the potential for increased canopy, which supports biodiversity, and increases resilience to climate change. We must be more ambitious with the target as 1% per year is woefully inadequate given the rate of past and recent felling. Bear in mind the length of time it takes saplings to mature (102).</p>	<p>Comment: WBC recognise the benefits of planting native trees and will prioritise planting them, however it is imperative to select the right tree for the right place hence WBC may select non-native tree species for particular sites where this is more appropriate. The tree canopy cover target has been made more ambitious with plans to double it by the time all the trees planted over the strategy period are fully grown.</p>
<p>I do think were a felled tree is close street lighting and signs the replanting should be relocated. Too many street lighting and signs are blocked by tree coverage on Wirral. Here is an opportunity to redress the situation (105).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Mature trees on the Wirral are being felled unnecessarily, and replacing them with 3 saplings will not mitigate against CO2 emissions, drainage, shade cover to reduce the overall urban heat island effect often felt in built up areas (draft Tree Strategy page 20 and 16). Removing or damaging irreplaceable habitat is not an option. There should be no circumstances under which it is destroyed in any format (thinning, lopping, pruning, felling). Comments as follow: 1) 10% new tree cover is way too short. In addition, it makes no sense to be planning re tree cover whilst at the same time removing mature trees due to development etc. 2) If this strategy is a 10 year plan, then what</p>	<p>Comment: Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance. The number of replacement trees planted will be determined in relation to the size of the original tree felled in order that the climate benefits will be the same within a reasonable time frame. The canopy cover target has been changed and made more ambitious with an ambition to plant at least 210,000 trees over the</p>

<p>happens after 10 years?? Do the trees then have no protection?? 3) Who are the stakeholders referred to in the draft (page 4). 4) Magenta Housing and Wirral Chamber of Commerce are 'partners'. What is their interest in Wirral's trees? Why are they 'partners'? 5) Who will be making decisions regarding the health of trees, whether they need to be felled, and what constitutes a hazard? Will the 'decision makers' be adequately trained and from a relevant profession, i.e. not a council worker. 6) TPO's were mentioned on a number of pages in the strategy, at present these do not provide protection for trees. Until the consequence of breaching the order is a serious deterrent they are meaningless. 7) 'As far as possible' is too vague, it creates loopholes and all references as such must be qualified. 8) Reference the destruction of irreplaceable habitats (page 11), what are the exceptional circumstances? These comments are too vague and open to interpretation. 9) Where is the new local plan mentioned in the draft???? (106).</p>	<p>ten year strategy, thereby doubling Wirral's tree canopy cover by the time the new trees are fully grown.  The strategy will be reviewed after 10 years and appropriate action taken, the trees will still be protected.  Partners work in collaboration with WBC to support the design and delivery of the strategy.  Decision makers on tree work are either internal tree officers or external tree surveyors, both of whom have extensive expertise with regards to tree maintenance and management and our tree officers always check contractors recommendations.  A review of TPOs and their enforcement is now the second action listed under the strategy.  The strategy has been edited to ensure clarity and is complimentary to the Local Plan.</p>
<p>It would be lovely to have more trees on our streets. Can you support residents planting more trees in our gardens, particularly those of us who have very small gardens? Also important is our access to tree areas - Wallasey has a wonderful coast but very few trees (108).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Plans are great but are only 'plans'. The 25 pages of the Tree Strategy are great 'plans', lots of great 'words' but frankly, Wirral has an appalling 'real' record about the environment - i.e. Glyphosate in Hoyle and then there was the Hilbre disaster! So words don't really cut it do they? (110).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Encourage/Support local residents, schools, businesses, etc to plan more trees too (111).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>The most important aspect to improve biodiversity is to 'MAINTAIN' existing biodiversity. This includes primarily the immediate HALT to the felling of all mature trees. It is totally insufficient to suggest that the bio diversity and benefits of a mature tree can be replaced with 2 or 3 saplings that take many (if not hundreds) of years to grow and re-establish biodiversity to the same level as a mature tree. It is also imperative that the 'risk' culture contained within this strategy that trees (alive, or dying) pose a danger that the public need 'protecting' from, is urgently reassessed and changed to a strategy that instead recognises the VALUE of each mature tree as a valuable life giving asset (oxygen, filtration, flood control, biodiversity, beauty, irreplaceability etc etc).</p>	<p>Comment: WBC is committed to protecting and increasing biodiversity and will therefore plant a wider range of genera and species and encourage natural regeneration where possible.  Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing.  By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance. The number of replacement trees planted will be determined in relation to the size of the original tree felled in order that the climate benefits will be the same within a reasonable time frame. The many benefits trees</p>

There is little evidence or justification that trees pose a 'risk'. The risk is insignificant at c. 1:150 million and to suggest that this 'act of god' could be protected from with a policy that includes the requirement to fell (at the huge rate that Wirral has and continues to perform) is not reasonable nor proportional. The reality is that trees pose an EXTREMELY LOW risk of harm, less than that of lightening. The public are NOT living in fear of trees. The fear of losing trees and everything that they provide however is very real. Any trees that are assessed as posing an 'imminent' risk to the public should be thoroughly assessed and re-assessed and other measures should be first put in place to protect them (alive or dead) rather than fell them. Dead trees are also a valuable bio asset, to suggest otherwise and they automatically need removing or felling as they are so dangerous is not evidence based, This could include signage (e.g. to avoid or caution in high winds or a cordon or brace etc...e.g. the Grange Park trees in West Kirby...it is extremely unlikely with a statistic of 1:150 million that all the mature poplars now pose an immediate risk and therefore all need felling or pollarding!). The same was for Ashton Park...the felling of over 50 wonderful, benefit giving trees, was in NO WAY 'proportional' to the risk. It was an unnecessary destruction that shocked and distressed many. If the council was truly concerned about risk, then all parks, swings etc. should be closed, all roof tiles removed amongst other much higher risk items that other than their direct function have no life giving benefits. Before a tree is felled a full risk assessment should be carried out to include how much oxygen is lost, how much less pollution is absorbed to contribute to disease, how many insects, birds, fungus and other bio markers will be harmed etc etc. etc. Although these are not so 'direct' they pose a far greater 'risk' to the public by being removed. I believe there are certain tools that can help assess the value of a tree such a CAVAT. All trees, should start with a default 'protection order' and the onus then being to prove its imminent 'risk' v a full benefits analysis before removal by the council. The same approach should be for trees on private land. New trees, hedgerow and wildflowers etc. should also be planted wherever possible, but it is remains imperative to ensure that the felling of mature trees is DRAMATICALLY reduced in favour of a PROTECTION approach (113).

provide are at the heart of this strategy to plant 210,000 more over its ten year course, and CAVAT valuations are being considered. Trees are felled as a last resort when all other alternatives have been exhausted, and deadwood is left in situ as far as possible given the ecological benefits it provides.

<p>I'd love to see more tree planting on Wirral especially if the Mersey Forest expertise is used (115).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Think that 10% should be a minimum starting point. We need more trees and habitats for wildlife and people. Hope that this is not to compensate for building on green belt areas (117).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>As a volunteer on Bidston Hill felling should be decided between respective organisations and the council, for example density of silver birch is obscuring views over to Liverpool and North Wales - if left the birch will eventually obscure those views, we need council management assistance in coping the expanse of birch, the gorse is also affecting the NATURAL heathland and again we as volunteers need council assistance as we are just a handful of people with basic loppers and bow saws (118).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>The choice of Trees to be planted must be considered and must be appropriate for the location they are going into - it is wrong to plant a Beech/Birch/Sycamore/Oak outside homes as they grown too big and rob properties of sunlight and can damage drains and foundations. I say this as I suffer from loss of light from a Beech and Sycamore right outside my house on the pavement and the council rarely prune these trees unless prompted by us and they have now cracked and heaved the pavement (119).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>I would hope that some trees planted are ones that grew originally in this area (120).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Trees rarely need to be cut down simply because they are diseased, dying or dead as they provide varying ecological benefits at different stages of their life cycle. We ought to be more risk averse with regard to motorcars which have killed and caused life altering injuries to far more than one person in Wirral over the last 3 years. Even their polluting factor will have contributed to several thousand premature deaths (121).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Stop planners relying on just desk surveys, They missed the Crested Newts, and Common Lizards next door to me. Your ideas are great, make sure the people employed understand the whole picture (122).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>I was thrilled to read of Wirral Council's long term plan to increase the number of trees. Having recently donated to the Woodland Trust's fundraising campaign, I was overjoyed to hear that Wirral Council will help in their campaign. I have walked my dog in Earlston Gardens, Wallasey for the last 11 years and in that time I have been dismayed to</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

see trees felled and not replaced. As part of your plan maybe these trees could be replaced and the number of trees increased (127).	
Work with local groups and keep residents informed about what are doing and why. You need to do this via different media and local associations to ensure your message gets out to as many as possible (129).	Noted.
Provided the trees planted are all grown in the UK and certified disease free . Native trees such as Oak, beech and ash are preferable (130).	Noted.
No mention of the type of trees that will be used to replace trees which have caused considerable damage to property, drains and footpaths? (135).	Comment: WBC will determine the most appropriate replacement trees to plant based on the policy of the right tree for the right place.
It seems sensible to incorporate a variety of species of native trees, in a variety of sizes and taking the local conditions into account in order to replicate a more natural appearance in regenerated areas (136).	Noted.
We run a tree nursery on The Wirral and would be happy to get involved and hopefully supply young trees to the council. Landowners and new housing development should have a tree planting requirement (138).	Noted.
I would like to be allowed to plant a tree on the grass verge outside my home without having to pay £135 and accept a tree of the council's choosing! If it needed care I would take responsibility (139).	Noted.
Thought has to go into planting. We could look at what was likely to have grown in the place a few hundred years ago. We need to ensure we don't just plant for short term effect (140).	Noted.
As diverse as possible, so if disease strikes, not all will be affected! (143).	Noted.
The more biodiversity the better and I wish local residents were encouraged more to plant trees in their gardens to aid water run-off, to help wildlife and to assist with pollution. I would go further and enforce tree planting in any spare land and verges and encourage local businesses, offices, schools and landlords to plant trees wherever possible. We have over 15 varieties of birds and more than 50 individual birds plus squirrels, hedgehogs, foxes and frogs who make use of our garden because of the trees we have (3 hazel, 3 rowan, 1 willow, 2 copper beech, 2 apple, 1 pear, 3 cherry, 1 plum, 8 acers, 1 wild cherry, 2 'bird planted' trees, numerous shrubs, holly, ivy) and everything thrives	Noted.



<p>in our tiny garden so there is no excuse for everyone not to do more (144).</p>	
<p>Have a focus on locally grown tree stock by supporting local nurseries (147).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>I am aware of the pledge that two more trees will be planted if you are 'forced' to fell one, but this avoids the fact that the biological importance of one mature tree, cannot be sufficiently replaced by the planting of two young trees. Again, this idea that you may be 'forced' to fell trees is a statement that should be removed from this document, as it demonstrates the misconstrued idea that if an older tree shows signs of damage or decay, then the only solution is to fell it. In order to improve the biodiversity, the sustainable maintenance of mature trees should be made a priority, whilst incorporating the initiative to increase tree cover. If the council see's a tree as a 'threat' to the public, the individual cases should be analysed properly by someone with substantial knowledge about the welfare of trees, and an assessment should determine what the best option is. There should not be an immediate decision to fell the tree (150).</p>	<p>Comment: By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance. The number of replacement trees planted will be determined in relation to the size of the original tree felled in order that the climate benefits will be the same within a reasonable time frame. Protecting, preserving, and expanding Wirral's tree stock is the main focus of the Tree Strategy thus maintenance of mature trees is a priority. Decision makers on tree work are either internal tree officers or external tree surveyors, both of whom have extensive expertise with regards to tree maintenance and management, and external advice is always sense-checked by our officers. A diverse range of species will be planted with an emphasis on the 'right tree for the right place'.</p>
<p>I would like to see a lot more trees planted wherever possible. They should be diverse and bee friendly (151).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>We welcome the plans to improve biodiversity and the variety of trees within Wirral and agree that native species should be used as opposed to ornamental/exotic (153).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>In this Emergency follow scientific advice to help Biodiversity to the maximum level Trees should ideally be native varieties and grown in UK - but there may be some sites where ornamental trees are better than none (156).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>What is the current extent of tree cover? Would be helpful to include this figure in the document. Consequently it can be specific about what 'at least 10%' means i.e. in terms of area or number of new trees. suggest defining what's meant by tree cover - is it extent of canopy, or number of trees, or something else? It will help to understand what the 10% increase actually means and what it 'looks like' (157).</p>	<p>Comment: Measures of tree canopy cover, which include all trees, whether in gardens, fields, parks woodland, urban spaces or streets show Wallasey has 9% of tree cover, Birkenhead 12.1%, Wirral West 16.5%, and Wirral South 17.9%. By planting over 210,000 trees across the ten-year strategy, the Council will greatly increase Wirral's canopy cover from an estimated 13% to around 25%, roughly doubling canopy cover by the time the trees are fully grown. This information has been included in the strategy to clarify the overall target.</p>

<p>I notice private homes are cutting down trees across the borough, I would like a strategy to encourage people to keep them . also a lot of trees have been felled in Oxtou conservation area with no sign of new planting. much stronger education and fines please (158).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>No mention of the enormous value of standing deadwood for wildlife. Dead wood (coarse woody debris or CWD) is extremely important to the health of a woodland, and this is being increasingly recognised by conservationists. Not only is it an aspect of the process of nutrient cycling, providing a steady, slow-release source of nitrogen, but it is also thought to play a significant role in carbon storage. Fallen logs can also increase soil stability within a woodland. Microhabitats Standing dead trees (snags) and fallen debris provide a fantastic array of 'microhabitats'. There is an enormous range of saproxylic (deadwood-dependent) organisms including fungi, lichens, invertebrates, mosses and birds, many of them having very specific requirements, and some specialising exclusively on one particular microhabitat. A remarkable 40% of woodland wildlife is dependent on this aspect of the woodland ecosystem. Among the invertebrates, specialist flies and beetles are particularly well represented. A number of these have now become extremely rare, as a result of loss of habitat. Certain insects depend on the fungi which grow on dead trees. • Ferris-Khan, R., Lonsdale, D. &amp; Winter, T. (1993) The conservation management of deadwood in forests. Forestry Authority Research Information Note 241 • Life in the Deadwood (PDF). Forestry Commission • Kirby, K.J., Reid, C.M., Thomas, R.C.&amp; Goldsmith, F.B. (1998) Preliminary estimates of fallen dead trees in managed and unmanaged forests in Britain. Journal of Applied Ecology 35(1), 148-155. • Stokland, J.Siitonen .J. and Jonsson, B.G Biodiversity in Dead wood, Cambridge University Press 2012 (159).</p>	<p>Comment: The strategy recognises the benefits that deadwood provides. Deadwood is left in situ where it is safe and possible to do so, particularly if it is judged to be ecologically valuable for invertebrates and will only be removed if there are safety concerns.</p>
<p>The council just seem to butcher mature trees by this awful brutal pruning. They NEVER prune trees correctly &amp; regularly. Apparently my area is due to have this destruction take place to protect phone wires. What about birds, wildlife, environment. More needs planting less needs destroying (162).</p>	<p>Comment: Pruning actions by the council or its contractors follow the guidance of the National Tree Safety Group (supported by the Health and Safety Executive). By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance.</p>
<p>Why are you cutting down old trees that may have some damage but not need to be totally destroyed. Why are you clearing areas of trees that do not need to be cleared because of 'one bad apple' (165).</p>	<p>Comment: Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. Taking</p>

	the decision to remove or cutback a tree is always the absolute last resort and one the Council makes when there is no other option.
Very good plan! Since habitats develop over time, I would like to not only a replacement of felled trees, but a commitment to planting the new trees with in same area. In public areas, I would welcome the planting of fruit trees of native varieties, which would raise awareness of where fruit come from, that they can be grown here, and may also help people on low incomes (169).	Noted.
Tree planting should be appropriate for the area. So potential size and spread may be as important as the variety. Trees inappropriately planted in the past which are now too big for the area where they are located should be managed to improve sight lines on highways and the effectiveness of street lighting (171).	Noted.
it is good that native species are emphasized, particularly a range of native species and that monocultures are to be avoided (174).	Noted.
Chestnut, beech, any tree beside Merseybank Road, Cornwall Close New Ferry!!!! (179).	Noted.
Planting native species should be priority (due to biodiversity gains) but i realise there is also a place for non-natives i.e. street trees. I Like the idea that for every veteran tree cut down, 3 new trees are planted (perhaps the aim should be 4 or 5?). But this needs to be continued long term and provide suitable protection to the tree so that the new trees have a chance at becoming a veteran tree one day (180).	Noted.
My concerns lay with the fact that non-native species could take longer to establish themselves after planting, how well these tress would survive in our climate (that will be ever-changing) and will this actually help to future-proof our tree stock or would it instead potentially threaten those that we already have (181).	Noted.
I would to think the council would replace trees which have been removed (183).	Noted.
Fail as yet to hear about any tree planting initiatives taking place on the spread of more housing with little or no place for nature in new housing or business development (184).	Noted.
We need to plant more street trees in areas like Seacombe, Egremont, New Ferry, Rock Ferry. (185).	Noted.
Keep to what is historically known for the Wirral peninsular (186).	Noted.

<p>Delighted with the plans. Wirral has always been a very green peninsula and today more than ever we need the benefits that only trees can give. A town without trees is a very soulless, unnatural and unhealthy place to grow up in (188).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>More evergreen trees are needed/need to be retained in urban/residential areas to give greater cover to wildlife particularly during the winter months. Wildlife/bird life is majorly impacted when trees in residential areas are felled... for whatever, sometime dubious, reasoning. Evergreen trees also benefit people and the environmental vista during the winter season (193).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Personally I would prefer planting native trees in wooded areas. Specimen trees in parks or landscaped areas is a different matter, where interesting trees and varieties add colour, shape and sometimes surprise and joy (195).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Where possible I believe that edible nut and fruit trees should be planted and educational devices made available in all schools or in public noticeboards so that the fruit can be picked and used by the public at the correct times and in the correct and safe way - this is both educational and beneficial to those who (as you state in your report) own these trees. Also I feel that the lining of all major roads where possible with Lime trees to absorb Carbon Monoxide is beneficial to both the climate and population (197).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>The more trees planted the better -especially for those of us who have to live in inner cities with traffic congestion, noise and pollution (204).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>More tree species should be available on the "adopt a tree" scheme, for example Scots Pine or similar native evergreens (206).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Whatever you plant will need proper care and attention, not just inspection on safety grounds, and this needs to be included in the budget. For example, the borough has some beautiful roadside flowering cherries which are grafted onto wild root stocks. These need regular inspection to check that the root stock hasn't produced its own branches, which are much more vigorous than the decorative graft and will eventually take over, producing a huge tree. Neglect over several years means that many of your flowering cherry trees are already in trouble and require selective removal of branches. This is particularly obvious in the spring when the branches are in bloom. The public can help by notifying you when they notice something amiss, but they'll need</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

contact details and to see that the council takes appropriate action (207).	
Plant Plant Plant as many as possible and as soon as possible (208).	Noted.
I do not agree with the cutting down of healthy mature trees at all especially not now when it will take many years to be as effective in capturing carbon. Two young trees, while being great in thirty years, are not much use right now. We also have to remember that, as well as not capturing carbon a felled tree releases it. We need a plan to plant as many trees as possible regardless of whether a tree is unhealthy or unsafe (209).	Comment: By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance. The number of replacement trees planted will be determined in relation to the size of the original tree felled in order that the climate benefits will be the same within a reasonable time frame.
We should all do, and support, everything possible (210).	Noted.
When the council cut a tree down whether it be New Ferry or West Kirby the new trees should be planted as Close as practical. So we are not making one area better to the detriment of others (212).	Noted.
Anything that helps biodiversity of the area and encourages wildlife as well (213).	Noted.
Tree cover on Wirral will be very adversely affected by the granting of planning permission to build on greenfield sites (217).	Noted.
The trees that are to be planted should be varied an recommended by experts such as the woodland trust (218).	Noted.
It is essential but could go further. Get schools and organisations (Allotments, Sports Development, RSLs, Scouts and Guides etc) involved to maximise planting (221).	Noted.
I think 10% is a very small minimum percentage, I think we should be looking more around 40% it is a clear message that the Wirral taking this seriously, 10% looks like a token gesture, very disappointing (222).	Comment: We have clarified the 10% target. By planting over 210,000 trees across the ten-year strategy, the Council will greatly increase Wirral's canopy cover from an estimated 13% to around 25%, roughly doubling canopy cover by the time the trees are fully grown. This information has been included in the strategy to clarify the overall target.
I would like to see a broad variety of indigenous species of tree (223).	Noted.
get on with it. On tree cutting : many trees have been cut down for no good reason...nothing to do with safety...I have seen it in my area. Stop it (224).	Comment: By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance.
More trees are needed in addition to those we already have, more in residential areas along the main traffic corridors. Poulton Road in Wallasey is the 3rd most congested road outside of London. It is also deprived and residents cannot afford the £150 tree adoption cost. More	Noted.

<p>needs to be done by the Council to improve the air quality in this area for residents, commuters and the environment as a whole. There are many primary schools in the area too so we have to think about the air these children are breathing in.  <a href="https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2296215/amp/Slowest-rush-hour-roads-revealed-The-infuriating-routes-work-drivers-crawl-just-0-08mph.html">youhttps://www.google.com/amp/s/www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2296215/amp/Slowest-rush-hour-roads-revealed-The-infuriating-routes-work-drivers-crawl-just-0-08mph.html</a> (225).</p>	
<p>It's essential to avoid the mass gaps created by e.g. Dutch elm and other more recent epidemic diseases, but I strongly believe that native trees are better suited to the local environment from an aesthetic perspective. I also feel that some allowance in the current strategy needs to be made for retrospective replacement of trees that have been felled - Oxton Park, Wallasey, has lost a significant number of trees over the past decade, due to weather damage and disease, without any replacement and conversations with contractors carrying out removal work have led me to the strong impression that the Council has neglected any replanting strategy over an extended period. As time goes on, these trees - some of which are approaching a century in age, become more likely to succumb to issues which may lead to their removal and swift action needs to be taken to ensure new specimens are introduced to ensure continuity of tree cover (228).</p>	<p>Comment: Responding to tree diseases is an important aspect of the strategy, and for this reason the 210,000 planting commitments over the ten year strategy do not include the additional replacements that may be required in response to diseases such as ash dieback. WBC will endeavour to plant native trees but may plant non-native species on certain sites in accordance with the 'right tree for the right place' approach. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance. The strategy puts a comprehensive replacement planting plan in place to ensure continuity of tree cover, with the intention of doubling canopy cover through planting by the time all the trees are fully grown.</p>
<p>Excellent plan, look forward to seeing it fully implemented as soon as possible (233).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Yes The west of Wirral is rural by nature and requires a strict tree preservation regime in areas where risk to trees are greatest. The east of the borough is more urban where tree planting, restitution and protection is more urgent. This work should be undertaken by officers in consultation with elected local councillors. One Councillor per ward should be delegated with this task (235).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>All the above plans are excellent. May I suggest that an article in the Globe making more public the "two for one" planting would be in the council's [often tarnished] interest? (236).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Our council should show FULL diversity when it comes to planting trees, we should of course give priority to the indigenous species. If it is decided to plant trees, we should be looking at having a Wirral Forest, for future generations to enjoy and to boost our economy (239).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Fill the Greenbelt with trees - after all that will prevent urban sprawl which is what the Greenbelts were created for (240).	Noted.
My problem is that the management of the trees already on the Wirral is pretty poor, the pavements and roads in the autumn are treacherous due to uncollected wet leaves (243).	Noted.

**Do you have any comments about the plans to improve the resilience of Wirral’s future tree population, in the context of a warming climate and potential new pests and diseases?**

Answered: 99. Skipped: 145.

Comments (Respondent Number)	Response
Planting more, yes, felling mature trees with all their biodiversity, definitely not (4).	Noted.
Work with informed professionals. Keep up to date with research e.g. from The Tree Council. DO MORE (5).	Noted.
Plans to increase resilience by planting a good mixture of trees, maybe including some slightly older specimens, making sure they are “the right trees for the right place” and obtaining them from UK , preferably local, sources are all good. But two key elements have been missed out. 1. Woods will naturally regenerate into mixed-species resilient places if allowed to do so, by simply letting surrounding land become colonised naturally by saplings from the wood, and NOT removing understory shrubs. 2. Dead trees should NOT automatically be removed, even if infected with a disease, while the presence of diseased trees in a wood should certainly never be a reason for removing healthy trees of the same species. Virulent diseases like ash die-back is not going to be stopped by spreading infected sawdust about a wood, while the best chance of finding naturally resistant trees is to keep watch over currently healthy ones (7).	Comment: The strategy has stated commitments to encouraging natural regeneration and self-seeded woodland where appropriate. Dead trees are not automatically removed. Instead, the strategy recognises the benefits that deadwood provides and so is left in situ where it is safe and possible to do so, particularly if it is judged to be ecologically valuable for invertebrates.
Tree resilience. Wirral Council is demonstrating a dangerously 'relentless' tree-felling program of Wirral's trees. Your so-called tree 'replacement' is not realistic. Council officers need to understand the inherent danger of what is being sanctioned, after all they need to survive these actions too. With Australia and the Amazon burning how can Wirral Council be so reckless? You have an explicit duty to protect your citizen's human rights in the face of this climate emergency. The following quote is from the Woodland Trust's statement on ash dieback (April 2019), they do also indicate that this is appropriate to other tree diseases; When faced with the impact of ash dieback, a landowner could be forgiven for thinking that the best way to manage the problem is to remove all of the ash trees as soon as possible. However, during an epidemic	Comment: Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. The safety of our residents is paramount thus we must be proactive, but the risk is being managed proportionally. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance. All appropriate guidance including the Tree Council's toolkit will be followed when responding to ash dieback, as detailed in Appendix 5 of the Tree Strategy.



<p>there will be a proportion of trees that will survive, and it is these trees that go on to build a tolerant future ash population. In addition, more trees will survive once the initial disease phase has moved through and the inoculum levels drop off, eventually leading to a balance between the fungus and host. Therefore, leaving as many symptomatic and asymptomatic ash trees as possible in the landscape will lead to greater future resilience to this disease. In addition, both standing and recumbent dead and decaying wood provides a very important conservation function in a wood and is extremely important for many species. Tree disease is best tackled by natural regeneration. New study has been looking at gene behaviour. The study, published in journal Nature Ecology &amp; Evolution, showed that resistance is controlled by multiple genes, offering hope that surviving trees could be used to restore diseased woodlands, either by natural regeneration or selective breeding. 'Researchers from Queen Mary University of London and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew sequenced the DNA from over 1,250 ash trees to find inherited genes associated with ash dieback resistance.' There is evidence that selective breeding will also improve resilience to diseases such as ash dieback (9).</p>	
<p>I refer you to the above, which demonstrate clearly how our remaining tree stock is to be protected, why the greatest threat to trees is not the potential for pests and diseases but the interventions of mankind, via their 'management' approach to the natural world and their e.g. failure to campaign for laws which will protect against felling and other damaging activities (10).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>The tree charter is commendable in seeking to protect the environment, boost tourism, reduce flooding and create green corridors but these ideas are in direct opposition to the proposed Wirral local plan which is aimed at building on farms, greenbelt and golf courses which will mean houses being built, more flooding, no green corridors, poorer air quality and an urban Wirral less likely to attract tourists (14).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>You haven't really detailed them, but we need mature trees now, not just in the future. Flooding is happening now. Biodiversity of dependent species is declining now. Temperatures are rising now &amp;</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

<p>air quality declining NOW. Make mature tree felling the absolute last resort. Declaring a climate emergency implies short-term action is necessary. The time to get away with reedy saplings is now past. We need to protect our mature trees &amp; then plant more anyway - not just as replacements for something that's actually irreplaceable (15).</p>	
<p>Only concern is the potential harmful effects of chemical sprays on the rest of the environment (17).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>STOP FELLING OUR MATURE HEALTHY TREES. A tree that has a fungal growth attached to it does NOT mean the tree is diseased fungal growths often live in an important symbiotic relationship with the tree/s and form a maize of network communicators between trees. Trees have immune systems trees depend on each other such as in a woodland or forest for sustaining a healthy immune systems. The important interdependence of groups of trees is still not fully understood but there is an understanding it exists and must be maintained wherever possible (18).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>We should grow our own saplings locally (22).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Resilience can be improved through proper aftercare given to any tree planting This is crucial as a lot of money / time can be wasted if proper management does not take place. A Copper Beech hedge was planted, together with a number of young trees on Storeton Fields, some years ago. It was upsetting to see Council staff strimming the bark off at ground level - so that only small sections of the hedge , and a few of the trees, have survived - after all the hard work of residents in planting them. There is some new thinking about Ash die-back now - it is not always best? to cut down every affected ash tree, as it seems there are seedlings/saplings coming through which are showing resilience? I expect that now, new vigilance is needed when sourcing tree stock of any species (23).</p>	<p>Comment: The necessary resources will be allocated to maintain the new trees planted as it is our priority that Wirral's tree stock is healthy and that the we double the canopy cover in the long term. The strategy recognises that aftercare is equally important to the initial planting and our tree stock is routinely monitored by expert Tree Officers as part of the risk assessment process. The latest guidance on ash dieback will be followed, as per Appendix 5 of the Tree Strategy.</p>
<p>VALUE WIRRAL'S TREES;...and all their associated wildlife -Have a blanket tree protection for all mature trees. -Allow trees with diseased limbs or standing deadwoods to remain INTACT. Use surround fencing if necessary in order to keep the tree(s) -Do not chip or transport diseased timber ; allow recovery from infection and disease by leaving the trees undisturbed within the natural ecology. -Have processes of prosecution that de-incentivises felling. Learn from practices of other local authorities who prosecute</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

<p>with fines of e.g. £50,000 for tree removal. -Prosecute for habitat loss/increased flood liability/etc from tree removal. -Do not employ people with qualifications in tree-felling and vested interests in removing our timber to 'look after' our trees. -Use CAVAT systems to VALUE our tree resources as they stand and grow. They are our inheritance (24).</p>	
<p>Leave standing deadwood (25).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Sadly there will be always new and potential pest and diseases in the future, however this has mostly due many factors such as over use and felling trees in vast quantities. I feel more funding should be giving to explore a more natural alternative to pest and diseases . Climate warming will not improve by cutting more trees down education and more tree planting in parks and schools The council now should be setting an example and involving the general public (26).</p>	
<p>I agree that we should be planting mixed woodland with various different species. The lack of trees of different ages on Wirral is due to poor management historically but we are where we are. I do not agree that planting full sized trees is much use except in the short term; these trees have stunted root systems and never recover, and are vulnerable in high winds and hot weather, are expensive and more difficult to manage. I think there should be a mix of planted diverse woods (whips) with areas of scrub allowed to develop, where trees will naturally self seed over a period of a few years (27).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>10% tree cover is not ambitious enough (30).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Leave sick trees in place, especially where there are other trees close by. They can support sick and dying trees. Tree felling releases carbon emissions. Leaving them in situ the CO2 remains trapped. Cutting down dead trees also emits the Co2 that's killing our planet, so best leave trees in place to break down naturally as much as possible (31).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Council officers need to be trained in the science of trees and care for our mature trees and apply 'Common Sense Risk Management of Trees' ref; Forestry Commission for National Tree Safety Group. and Further guidance on management; 'Ancient and Other Veteran Trees' (David Lonsdale) as recommended by the Tree Council. Even these guides to good management need to be updated now that we</p>	<p>Comment: WBC is committed to protecting and increasing biodiversity and will therefore plant a wider range of genera and species and encourage natural regeneration where possible. The strategy also states that any planned work on trees or woodland on council land will take account of biodiversity issues for example bird nests and bat roosts are screened for.</p>

have a Climate Emergency and Wirral has been stripped of almost all its ancient and veteran trees.; For 'ancient and veteran' we now need to address mature trees with these care strategies. VALUE WIRRAL'S TREES;...and all their associated wildlife-Have a blanket tree protection for all mature trees.-Allow trees with diseased limbs or standing deadwoods to remain INTACT. Use surround fencing if necessary in order to keep the tree(s)-Do not chip or transport diseased timber ; allow recovery from infection and disease by leaving the trees undisturbed within the natural ecology. -Have processes of prosecution that de-incentivises felling. Learn from practices of other local authorities who prosecute with fines of e.g. £50,000 for tree removal.-Prosecute for habitat loss/increased flood liability/etc from tree removal.-Do not employ people with qualifications in tree-felling and vested interests in removing our timber to 'look after' our trees.-Use CAVAT systems to VALUE our tree resources as they stand and grow. They are our inheritance. The Council's role in this Climate Emergency is vital: -Educate the public that trees which are flagged as 'dropping leaves' or 'blocking light' or 'spoiling the view' will pale into insignificance when we can't breathe for lack of oxygen, and heavy pollutants are killing our (unborn) babies and elderly, (already 40,000 pollutant related deaths a year and huge increases in pollutant-linked miscarriage) and our wildlife is becoming extinct. -Street-tree planting; Plant-up our streets and educate people to look after the trees outside their homes (i.e. not damage roots or relentlessly prune) -Fallen leaves can be swept up rather than blown with petrol leaf-blowers. - Educate why the Council have banned toxins such as glyphosate in order to protect the public/dogs and wildlife from related cancers and poisoning-Litigate to stop private tree-fellers touting their door-to-door business to cut and fell private garden trees. -Place signage as to the VALUE of trees for the canopy habitat that is provided. That because trees are tall they are NOT dangerous. Again...we are not stupid and we do not need to be patronised by the council trying to claim that they are "carrying out felling and works on trees for our own safety". -Stop spending our public money on actively destroying our environment. We need MORE trees not less.- Promote an onus of responsibility onto people with garden space or

All staff dealing with trees whether in a planning, landscape, design, highway, safety or operational context will hold the relevant skills, experience and qualifications to undertake their particular roles and that our skilled ranger will train others in woodland management skills. A comprehensive review of TPOs and their enforcement will ensure those who unlawfully remove trees are prosecuted and that any new TPOs deemed necessary are introduced. Deadwood is left in situ where it is safe and possible to do so, particularly if it is judged to be ecologically valuable for invertebrates and will only be removed if there are safety concerns. The first outcome of the strategy is to support a survey of all Wirral's trees to form a single data base using i-tree eco and i-tree canopy surveys, and CAVAT valuations are being considered. Street planting on marginal land such as grassy verges is a key part of the strategy. In terms of educating the general public, the strategy commits to sharing information more widely with interested groups, individuals and the general public and encouraging residents to get involved with local tree planting efforts to raise awareness of the importance of trees. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance. All appropriate guidance including the Tree Council's toolkit will be followed when responding to diseases such as ash dieback, as detailed in Appendix 5 of the Tree Strategy, and the Woodland Trust have been involved with the strategy as an external partner.

<p>private land to plant trees and hedgerows for the sake of us all.-          Educate the 'friends' groups of our borough's parks that trees are VITAL to our health and must be saved at any cost rather than felled. And that there is a legal duty of care to RETAIN our trees and ecosystems, especially as so many of our gardens are now paved over. Our parks with canopy vegetation are our boroughs LUNGS.-          Educate that cutting all shrubbery's to knee-high is NOT conducive to encouraging bio-diversity; e.g. birds need to nest ABOVE predator height.-Educate that mature trees and all the wildlife therein cannot be "replaced" by planting a few spindly sapling trees.-Actively encourage 're-wilding'...it does exactly that....enables wildlife to re-establish (32).</p>	
<p>No (35).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Only to "warmly" welcome it and we are prepared to urge all our members of Conservation Areas Wirral to support this (37).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>No (38).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>If people vandalise trees please do really throw the book at them. I'm a biologist, so I am somewhat biased! (45).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>See above- this box does not constitute an adequate arena for informed debate (46).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>WBC should work more closely with the Woodland Trust, Kew BG, and other European botanical agencies to work out the correct strategies. However, ironically, one of the strongest actions the council can take is to ensure that fewer trees are felled, as it is the presence of the older trees themselves that could counter the climate change. It is really stupid to fell trees in the meantime (50).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Increasing the range of species planted is essential if tree cover is to survive climate change (51).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>I think you need to plant more trees and respect those that are already here. There seems to be a wave of leaving the tree but cutting off all the branches leaving stumps - I agree with pruning but not totally cutting off all the branches - an example of this is Magazine Lane - the eucalyptus are decimated leaving just trunks (53).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>No comments (54).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>As above please plant more trees but only plant new trees do not rip down beautiful mature trees that do not need to be taken away (63).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Yes will help drainage and in certain areas cut down wind speed (69).	Noted.
Can we require all developments to commit to tree planting on a percentage of the land to be built on? I.e. a minimum of 2 trees per dwelling or 5 for a larger commercial project? (70).	Comment: Planning applications will need to demonstrate that there will be enough room for the future growth of new and retained trees to ensure long term retention.
Perhaps tree experts could advise where certain trees should be planted to encourage healthy growth. It is the worse situation for a tree planted in a place that is not suitable to it at all. Good management of trees is an important methods to prevent the disease and tests (71).	Noted.
This resilience issue is important. New planting should recognise the best tree types to maintain a healthy tree stock. On tree disease in parks and plantations, this needs to be addressed through Management Plans and it needs to be recognised that in this situation we may need to fell or thin trees for other than safety reasons. The only solution to Pine Needle Blight is thinning the stock but this is not a safety felling and is excluded under Wirral's rule of only felling for safety reasons (72).	Noted.
All waste land, empty fields to be transferred to new sustainable woodlands (73).	Noted.
Have done with it and just bulldoze the whole of the Wirral .. then sell it Peel (75).	Noted.
Attach emergency TPOs to ALL trees, public and private. Offer advice about rewilding and support this. Leave areas that are away from public footpaths alone as much as possible. Concentrate on treating invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and Indian Balsam. Stop removing all traces of dead wood. Stop using raw chipped dead wood as a mulch without it being heat treated to kill diseases first (78).	Noted.
STOP FELLING TREES (79).	Noted.
obviously expert advice is needed not just inhouse and a plan longer than 10 years is needed as a tree takes longer than that to reach full maturity (80).	Noted.
Plant as many as possible with a wide variety of species (85).	Noted.
Keeping diverse woodland, deciduous and evergreen is so important to the Wirral peninsula. If disease or pests become an issue at the	Noted.

<p>least it will only affect a certain type of tree. Leaving others to continue to grow. Maintaining mature trees, which absorb a great deal of water is as important as planting saplings. Felling any mature tree should be a last option (86).</p>	
<p>It's a great start but more must be done! Let's get more electric charge stations and protect the green and brown belt land we have left (90).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Only that it is essential to do so (91).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Councils have an obligation to protect trees. By felling and removing parts of trees, Councils are already operating in breach of the law. The Wildlife and Countryside act 1991 makes it an offense to carry out works on trees wilfully during the nesting season. Probable bat roosts are being felled with no bat surveys being carried out. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act of 2006 states that Councils and local authorities have a statutory duty to protect biodiversity, as is the law according to the European and Habitats Directive; making environmental protection a legal obligation. The Council has a duty to make provision for the preservation of trees and woodlands. According to the Aarhus Convention to which Britain is a signatory, there is an obligation to educate the public about the natural environment. This education should be a TRUTHFUL reflection of the risks of tree loss, and the realistic effects on climate change from removing our mature trees. There is a lack of education as to the VALUE of trees and this extends to private loggers and felling companies touting for business at schools, care homes, etc. A blanket TPO approach is necessary with full and effective prosecutions for tree removal. These prosecutions need to be extended to planning development sites to prevent land being bought and mass vegetation felling and clearance routinely carried out PRIOR to submitting planning applications. Tree planting is essential to the survival of our planet; spending public monies on the felling and removal of trees is a destructive and out-dated concept that has allowed profiteering of timber companies at the expense of the health of the public (40,000 people in our country die of polluted air- tree-felling removes our filtering systems) and our ecology. In accordance with recommendations by the Woodland Trust; NO</p>	<p>Comment: Protecting, preserving, and expanding Wirral's tree stock is a key priority of the Tree Strategy. Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. The safety of our residents is paramount thus we must be proactive, but the risk is being managed proportionally. WBC follows the guidance of the National Tree Safety Group (supported by the Health and Safety Executive). Felling is never carried out for financial gain. The strategy acknowledges that WBC is bound by the "biodiversity duty" which states that in exercising its functions it must have regard for conserving biodiversity (Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006). The strategy also states that any planned work on trees or woodland on council land will take account of biodiversity issues for example bird nests and bat roosts are screened for. In terms of educating the general public, the strategy commits to sharing information more widely with interested groups, individuals and the general public and encouraging residents to get involved with local tree planting efforts.</p> <p>Tree Protection Orders (TPO) are applied to protect selected trees and woodlands that bring significant amenity benefit to the local area such that their removal would have a significant negative impact on the local environment and its enjoyment by the public. This protection is particularly important where trees are under threat. All types of tree (but not bushes or shrubs) can be protected, and a TPO can protect anything from a single tree to all trees within a defined area or woodland. Under the Town &amp; Country Planning Act 1990 and Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012, local authorities have a duty to apply TPOs to any trees or woodlands in need of protection. Before authorities make or confirm an order, however, they need to ensure that they are able to demonstrate that</p>

diseased timber should be chipped or transported from site. Studies show that plant disease is best tackled by natural regeneration (Nature Ecology & Evolution). Further to this, no logging companies should be employed by the Council to fell trees/ remove limbs and profit from harvesting public trees. Nor should members of the public be allowed to harvest felled timbers from sites. Tree-care should remain 'in-house' with Council workers CARING for mature trees; fencing them or supporting them where appropriate, but essentially allowing them to grow to their NATURAL shapes and states to include all the associated ecology. Leaves should be swept and mulched NOT blown with loud polluting petrol-guzzling apparatus. The HSE (Health and Safety Executive) now recognise that any 'risk' below 1 in 1 million is classed as insignificant or negligible risk: HSE have death or serious injury from trees as 1 in 150 million. Mature trees provide an invaluable asset in the fight against climate change, flood prevention, O2 production, carbon sequestration, pollution filtration etc. and bring overwhelming benefits to local communities in terms of both clean air for public health and quality of life for residents. Their contribution to biodiversity is tremendously significant. The felling of mature trees for accident prevention purposes is entirely misguided, serving as much purpose as would knocking down all buildings in order to prevent the potential for falling roof tiles and masonry in a storm. Researchers discovered that older trees (around 120years+) didn't grow old, weaken, bow and become fragile then slow down - the opposite happened: older trees grow more quickly are full of energy and are highly productive and more effective carbon sequesters than young trees. (Wohlleben, 2016)Wirral Council needs to survey all its trees with a view to their PRESERVATION; such as using i-tree and measuring CAVAT values (Capital Asset Value of Amenity Trees). We have to learn from good practice (for example Madrid's Tree Strategy and management where streets and parks are lined with many hollow veteran trees fitted with 'bat caging' (to admit bats but protect from predators or humans) and tall trees on roundabouts are anchored with cables, etc). Looking after our mature trees allows the ecology to look after itself (94).

protection would bring a reasonable degree of public benefit in the present or future, thereby evidencing that it is expedient to serve a TPO.

Conservation areas (CA) refer to areas with significant architectural or historic interest which is considered worthy of preservation and/or enhancement. CAs mandate a precautionary approach to the loss or alteration of buildings and/or trees, and provide provisional legal protection for all trees (with a stem diameter of more than 75 mm, when measured at 1.5 metres height above ground level) within the defined area. CAs achieve this by requiring anyone proposing to cut down or carry out work on a tree within the CA to issue a 'section 211 notice' at least six weeks' prior to commencing, except for the following activities: (i) removal of dead trees; (ii) the prevention or abatement of (legal) nuisance; and, (iii) the implementation of planning permission. This six-week notice period enables the relevant local authority to make an assessment and apply a TPO, if necessary. In effect, CAs provide provisional protection for all trees (with a stem diameter of more than 75 mm, when measured at 1.5 metres height above ground level) within the defined area which are not covered by a TPO and reserve the right for local authorities to apply TPO to any trees under threat within a CA. Importantly, if a tree or group of trees within a CA is already protected by a TPO, normal TPO procedures apply, *i.e.*, a 'section 211 notice' cannot be used to attain consent to perform work on TPO protected trees.

Whilst TPOs provide definitive protection for trees, then, CAs provide the same level of protection for all trees (with a stem diameter of more than 75 mm, when measured at 1.5 metres height above ground level) within the CA on a provisional basis, and necessitate a notice period sufficient to allow local authorities to apply TPO, if necessary. Unless trees within a CA are under immediate threat, then, blanket applications of TPOs are unnecessary and – rather than highlighting the importance particular trees within a CA – would dilute the exceptional status that TPOs are designed to recognise. Indeed, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) explicitly advises against using TPOs to protect entire areas, except in the event of an emergency: area protection under a TPO 'is intended for short term protection in an emergency and may not be capable of providing



	<p>appropriate long-term protection. Authorities are advised to only use this category as a temporary measure until they can fully assess and reclassify the trees in the area' (paragraph 029 (reference ID:36-029-20140306)). Moreover, before applying a TPO, local authorities need to be able to demonstrate that doing so that a TPO would bring a reasonable degree of public benefit in the present or future, thereby evidencing that it is expedient to serve a TPO. In cases where trees are already protected under CAs and are under no immediate threat, Wirral Council would be unable to demonstrate that working on CA-covered trees would pose a significant threat to the amenity of the area, and, as such, would be unable to demonstrate the expediency of a TPO. Applying TPOs under these circumstances could be viewed as overreach and expose Wirral Council to legal challenges through the courts.</p> <p>Nonetheless, Wirral Council is committed to vigorously enforcing all infringements of TPO's and Conservation Area protections, and, as part of the Tree Strategy, will perform a comprehensive review of existing TPOs and CAs to reassess historical orders and potentially implement new TPOs deemed necessary to protect trees which are not already covered under CAs.</p>
<p>I work as a gardener and I do not use any chemicals. By encouraging health in the landscape through organic means , it allows a balance for nature to balance itself. Over time this brings many benefits (97).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Friends of parks groups should be given more support financially and re tree training to be able to help with early diagnostic of diseases (99).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Non-natives have introduced diseases so these should be discouraged. Again, in terms of warming climate, think about increasing plantings overall, particularly in view of the past and current level of fellings of mature trees on the Wirral. Mature and medium sized trees can't be "replaced with 2 -3 saplings" as it takes a number of years for saplings to mature, so, of felled, we have lost the benefits of larger trees straight away (103).</p>	<p>Comment: A variety of trees will be planted to create a resilient tree stock. WBC will endeavour to plant native trees but may plant non-native species on certain sites in accordance with the 'right tree for the right place' approach.</p> <p>By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance. The number of replacement trees planted will be determined in relation to the size of the original tree felled in order that the climate benefits will be the same within a reasonable time frame.</p>

	Trees will generally be replaced in the same location but in some circumstances a nearby location may be more practical and appropriate.
It seems a rational argument, see my comment about non-natives, which may introduce disease and pests into the UK (104).	Noted.
I agree with the councils forward looking (107).	Noted.
How about, if we don't destroy trees ourselves we won't have to worry about the few that die as a result of disease which is a natural occurrence. With reference to no 9. What is the review process?? (108).	Comment: Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance. The strategy will be governed by an annual review process between the Council and stakeholders.
mmmmmmmmmmmm (109)	Noted.
Educate us and share information far more widely, please (110).	Noted.
see comments in '7' above (112).	Noted.
It is important to understand that ICNIRP guidelines for non-ionising radiation only protect a person from one device from a 'thermal effect' only over a short 6 minute exposure. They DO NOT take into account the effects of 'non thermal' levels on cellular biology, nor for continual exposure. These guidelines also only apply to humans. There is no mention in the guidelines whatsoever on the effects on trees, birds and wildlife etc. There are thousand of 'independent' studies' that show clear evidence of harm to humans (especially children) as well as trees, plants and wildlife from non-ionising radiation such as cell towers and Wi-Fi etc.. Wirral Council should immediately review the independent science and question the government on the validity of the 'existing' and seemingly unchallengeable PHE/ICNIRP/WHO backed guidelines. Existing levels, and now the imminent 5G roll out, which will exponentially increase cell towers and small cells and therefore radiation exposure, is a threat to human health, trees and wildlife. Trees are also being removed as 5G signals do not pass well through obstacles. Wireless radiation is recognised as an emerging threat, is already classified as a Class 2b carcinogen with sufficient new evidence to re classify as a Class 1 by IARC, it is also uninsurable. Trees have large surface areas (leaves) that will absorb the 5G radiation that	Noted.

penetrates less deeply into the body (but no less harmfully) than existing frequencies. Although this may seem slightly off subject...to research and challenge the forced roll out of 5G will bring the greatest benefits to both human health and trees. Once DNA has been damaged, which is proven in the independent science, there is no reversing this damage. Trees, insects and bio diversity will be irreversibly harmed (115).	
See above - think this is a good starting point but we all need to make diverse natural habitats for wildlife and people (119).	Noted.
As above, if trees natural to this area are planted, they are more likely to survive (122).	Noted.
Employ a larger number of trained tree wardens and experts (123).	Noted.
Sounds as though you are planning well (124).	Noted.
Encourage residents to buy from sustainable sources and insist shops only stock items that are not damaging the world we live in (131).	Noted.
See above (132).	Noted.
Again the type of tree needs to be thought about that will not in the long term cause mor harm than good (137).	Noted.
The council should try and help and assist Landowners and residents to plant more native trees (140).	Noted.
Encourage home owners to plant trees in own gardens also allow us to replant seedlings sown by birds in our gardens onto bare open spaces. If in future they were causing a problem, could be removed (141).	Noted.
No point in planting unless their care is part of the plan (142)	Noted.
Every new housing development should be conditional on the developers planting trees in pavement outside the houses and where possible on all the edges of the development. It should form part of all planning consents (143).	Noted.
Make sure they are planted intelligently, in the right place and right soil type and with sufficient irrigation to get well-established (145).	Noted.
Growing local, improving education, making sure the garden centres and shopping centres are aware of imported trees and plants are all important steps (146).	Noted.
I believe that the key is to remain updated on international and national research into global warming, in order to maintain the ability	Noted.

to adapt to change. The diversity of tree cover should be increased, by increasing the variety of species planted, in order to avoid mono cultures that serve minimal benefits to the environment (152).	
Plans to improve the resilience of trees in context with pests & disease is useful but in doing so it should not upset or have an impact upon the natural degradation of trees and the species that inhabit such trees which in turn form part of a balanced woodland ecosystem & the wildlife food chain. Use of pesticides/herbicides should be avoided (155).	Noted.
The tree population needs regular inspection to detect pests or disease early. But very important is to train and supervise workers who may be unnecessarily enthusiastic with cutting down/back trees (158).	Noted.
funding to properly manage the trees. the council pruning over that past couple of years has been dreadful, the trees look hacked and whilst they are struggling to regrow can not be productive in reducing c02 (160).	Noted.
All very well, but trees are not the most important factor in mitigating climate change. Without other, more significant changes, such as massive reduction in use of fossil fuels urgently (unlikely), increasing tree cover will have little effect (161).	Noted.
No as I doubt council will leave any alive. You all need replacing with pro environmental councillors who put regular tree maintenance in place (164).	Noted.
as above. Planting new trees is beneficial but you are destroying ancient trees unnecessarily (167).	Noted.
I believe diverse populations and a really long-term view in their management are essential. I also believe plants need to be given the chance to deal with pests and diseases in their own time, and that resilient individuals will survive and re-establish the population, which they cannot do if they are felled at the first sign of disease. If possible, it may be preferable for reasons of genetic diversity to source young trees from local parent trees than from large nurseries (171).	Noted.
Highlighting and raising awareness of diseases like ash dieback and bleeding canker is hugely important. I hope that the talk of shifting tree distributions under climate change does not lead to the planting	Noted.

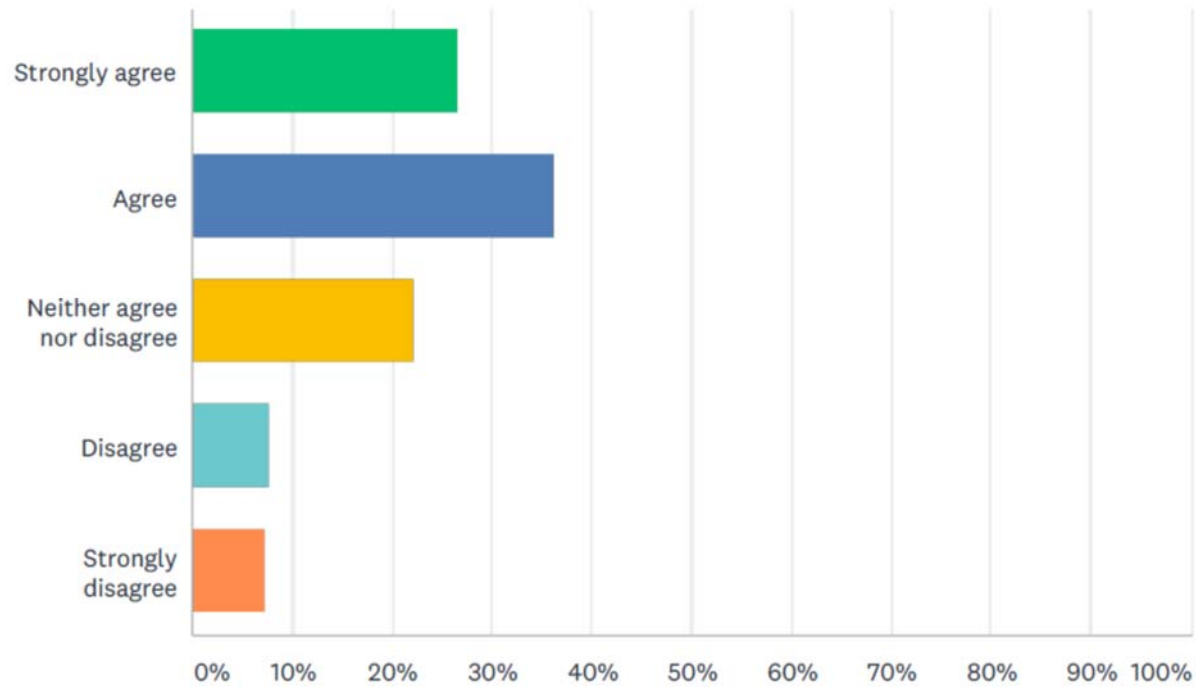
of unsuitable non-native species, though including species originally only native to southern England such as hornbeam should be encouraged (176).	
Stop building more football pitches. already got 10 (181).	Noted.
Planting a variety of species helps prevent complete loss of tree cover if a new disease arises. Planting species that are tolerant to climatic changes (i.e. drought conditions) is good (182).	Noted.
It is important that we do improve the resilience of our tree population so that the new planting is effective and sustainable. Is the mixture of native and non-native trees going to help combat the new pests and diseases likely to come about from a warming climate? (183).	Comment: The intention is that species will be selected to be resilient to anticipated climate change and to reduce the risk from pests and disease. Some non-native species may be better for a warmer climate, but trees will be native and locally sourced where possible for biosecurity purposes, hence the 'right tree for the right place' approach.
Like the plan but pity no action taken to expand our tree cover in Wirral over last 30 years (186).	Noted.
More forest spaces needed to be up kept and extended (188).	Noted.
Do what you can.. good luck ! (197)	Noted.
No - I believe that nature is quite capable of ensuring the right trees and plants survive in the environment at that time. The best current advice should be sought before any human interference with that process is undertaken - the trees which have naturally grown on the Wirral Peninsula for centuries will probably prove to be the most appropriate. The Management of this is not a job for a school leaver or to be done by someone who is not deemed to have enough to do in their own job - this needs a full time Manager who understands the job and can give his/her full attention to every aspect (199)	Noted.
No - I believe that nature is quite capable of ensuring the right trees and plants survive in the environment at that time. The best current advice should be sought before any human interference with that process is undertaken - the trees which have naturally grown on the Wirral Peninsula for centuries will probably prove to be the most appropriate. The Management of this is not a job for a school leaver or to be done by someone who is not deemed to have enough to do in their job - this needs a full time Manager who understands the job and can give his/her full attention to every aspect (201).	Noted.
None - I am sure such matters will be tackled as they arise (206).	Noted.

Anything to increase the variety of tree species should be encouraged. I have seen the impact of diseases such as Ash Dieback and Ramorum on Japanese Larch (208).	Noted.
A good diversity of species obtained from accredited UK growers seems a good starting point. The ever-resourceful pests and diseases from outside the UK are likely to continue to elude the country's biosecurity measures (209).	Noted.
again be sure that this 10% is spread across the borough (214).	Noted.
the more locally native trees that are planted the better (216).	Noted.
Agree (219).	Noted.
Use less weed killer (220).	Noted.
As above. Have you involved the Woodland Trust for example? (223).	Comment: The Woodland Trust have been involved with the strategy as an external partner.
I think tree lining our streets is very important, this is were the majority of CO2 is produced in urban areas from cars and household boilers. I also think giving householders the chance to have ownership and take responsibility for local trees whether it is planting activities or even purchasing. Just planting trees here and there will be open to vandalism as there is no personal or communal connection (224).	Noted.
I have no worry about climate change but more variety is good (224).	Noted.
Listen to the public. Open up a reporting process as we are your eyes and ears on the ground. Stop charging ridiculous amounts of money for trees to be 'adopted' (227).	Noted.
A broad variety of trees proven to be appropriate for their location is essential. Aside from early identification and management of trees that may be susceptible to pests and diseases, it is however difficult to see what steps can be taken to improve resilience aside from trying to ensure the best choice of specimen for the location. Vandalism appears to be a significant risk to new trees - not always deliberate, as evidenced by the mowing of a number of whips that were planted in Oxtan Park, Wallasey, some years ago, and additional education and security patrols may be as appropriate as physical protection of younger specimens (230).	Noted.
Good sensible plan (235).	Noted.

<p>Yes This policy must be incorporated into the Local Plan, in particular it should be referred to in all schemes that come before the Planning Committee. I am advised by the Planning Enforcement Director "?" that it is impossible for the Council to police the conduct of all schemes. This observation demonstrates that no amount of goodwill or regulation by the Council can be effective until such policing is undertaken in respect of habitat, trees and other nature issues. The suggestion made at a recent Planning Sub Committee meeting that all trees in Wirral (including Chester West and Chester) should be placed under TPO orders should be followed up (237).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>There is an easily found wealth of planting knowledge to be found, so that the most appropriate [to weather patterns] trees may be planted (238).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Our trees should be protected as far as humanely possible against disease. I would suggest a tree officer and a tree watch, to help protection. Should we plant a Wirral Forest, with tourist facilities, this would pay for those posts mentioned (241).</p>	<p>Comment: The council currently employs tree officers to protect, maintain, and manage Wirral's tree stock.</p>
<p>Yes - stop messing about, let nature take its course (242).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

## To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed governance and review process of the strategy?

Answered: 180. Skipped: 64.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	26.67%	48
Agree	36.11%	65
Neither agree nor disagree	22.22%	40
Disagree	7.78%	14
Strongly disagree	7.22%	13
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>180</b>



## Do you have any comments about the communications approach to raising public awareness of tree management and maintenance matters?

Answered: 117. Skipped: 127.

Comments (Respondent Number)	Response
Councils never seem to listen to the public, who suffer when trees are felled (4).	Noted.
DO MORE. Put the planet first (5).	Noted.
It's necessary to go beyond informing people when you're about to fell trees and explaining why. We need to be consulted first, as there is far too much felling going on. The fact that healthy mature trees are being chopped down even as this consultation process is underway is cause for great concern. It is very rare that a tree "needs" to be cut down, and it's impossible not to see "public safety" as purely an excuse. Notwithstanding a recent very sad case, over which everyone must have sympathy, trees are not inherently dangerous. If public safety were really the paramount concern, thousands of times the effort going into cutting down trees would instead be being put into stopping people driving cars. Public safety, in terms of reduction of flooding intensity, and health, in terms of reduction of pollutants, are served by keeping trees, not cutting them down (7).	Comment: The strategy commits to developing effective communication channels using both online and paper-based platforms as well as face-to-face local meetings to support the strategy and effectively communicate about the occurrence of and reasoning for planned works, allowing for more consultation. As part of this we will encourage residents to get involved with local tree planting efforts to reassure them that the trees planted over the strategy period will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost.
Teach Council workers and the public of Wirral the dangers of removing trees. Carry out prosecutions against people who remove trees; including property developers and free-lance tree fellers raising funds from removing trees. Teach a duty of care to council workers and the public to keep all our trees and to plant more in any available spaces. A 'robust plan to inspect and manage trees' as proposed is against human rights when it means destroying ecosystems. Defra's laws of biodiversity and the European habitat laws are being breached with the so-called 'critical safety works' that have been carried out 'over the past 12 months' according to the Council; As a visitor and past Wirral resident I know that the tree-loss on Wirral has been over many years and as an arboriculturist, I know that the works are not critical and not for anyone's safety but those who are profiting from the cutting and selling the woods of Wirral. The Council have to understand the environmental destruction they are endorsing It is	Comment: The strategy states that all staff dealing with trees whether in a planning, landscape, design, highway, safety or operational context will hold the relevant skills, experience and qualifications to undertake their particular roles and that our skilled ranger will train others in woodland management skills. The strategy also commits to encouraging and supporting community engagement. A comprehensive review of TPOs and their enforcement will ensure those who unlawfully remove trees are prosecuted. Trees are never felled for economic gain, and one of the outcomes of the strategy is to ensure the protection of existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows, as well as the planting of new ones.

time to adopt a Tree Protection strategy such as the For Trees Wirral Strategy, (fortreeswirral@gmail.com) and put lives before money (9).	
I refer you to the above mentioned in 7) and in 8) (10).	Noted.
Don't loudly declare a Climate emergency, then fell our mature trees, rather than treating them/supporting them/ inspecting them regularly. Be honest if you want to save cash, but don't declare how important the "crisis" is if you're still only at the stage of planting trees that will only start being significant in decades (15).	Comment: The Tree Strategy will be fundamental to responding to the Climate Emergency, hence the commitment to plant 21,000 trees every years over the 10 years strategy. By planting at least 210,000 trees, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance
More notices needed around park. At gates and key junctions. I live next to the woods so do not enter via the car park (16).	Noted.
Needs to be lot more publicity and public/community engagement (17).	Noted.
Communications. Public participatory involvement in becoming the caring overseers and educators of the importance of keeping our trees. 'Full consultation and participation at an early stage before decisions are made' (One of the 5 pillars of the important Aarhus Convention (18).	Noted.
I think that when established trees are being felled that it would be good to communicate that out by social media on the Wirral. To reassure the local residents of the genuine needs to cut fell (& why) and how the trees will be replaced with an invitation to locals for tree planting dates. Small leaflets could also be put through doors for those residents views directly affected nearby for reassurance as it very alarming to see your landscape change permanently and not know why this would be. This would allow for public engagement, and social media, and a leaflet drop in the immediate area affected with locals and groups as to participate in 🌱 planting will encourage them that it has been done in the best interests. Tree planting dates would make residents feel that not all is lost as more trees will be restored and this is a positive legacy for our children. Also some elderly do not access the internet so leaflet drop and advert in local paper. Tree felling required in Bromborough due to ..... please come to tree planting dates on..... (19).	Comment: Effective communication channels using both online and paper-based platforms as well as face-to-face local meetings will be used to support the tree strategy and communicate about the occurrence of and reasoning for planned works. WBC will share this information more widely with interested groups, individuals and the general public and will encourage residents to get involved with local tree planting efforts to reassure them that the trees planted over the strategy period will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost.
No company with any financial interest whatsoever should be involved in the identification of potentially dangerous trees for removal. Each and every tree should be clearly labelled with full disclosure of the reasons for it's possible destruction along with a full	Noted.

<p>risk assessment alongside details of every possible other strategy such as fencing off, treatment plans etc that could be employed as a first line of defence. These reasons should be made clear to the public on every occasion and residents given the opportunity to object to any removal for each tree (21).</p>	
<p>I am not aware of communications to raise public awareness in this area. But I do know there are many people who have considerable knowledge of trees and their place in our lives. I do know that Wirral has a very low tree-cover when compared with other areas of the UK - only 3 or 4%? I would like to say for Q12 - I agree with the draft strategy ONLY if it is implemented. There are many "We wills..." in it. But when? It is useless just as a piece of paper. and would like to reiterate I do not agree with the timber from mature trees going to feed biomass ( or feed wood-burning stoves?), as it is presently (23).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Stakeholders to be informed earlier in the process Felling to be stopped until this strategy is completed Public to be educated on benefits of deadwood (25).</p>	
<p>work shops --- community group meeting (26).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>I am glad that there is a priority on community and local voluntary group involvement but I think awareness and involvement could be much greater. There is an appetite now to do something about this, but people don't know where to start or what is going on. Schools and churches, scout groups and other voluntary groups could be invited to sponsor a piece of land where planting will take place, or nominate a local piece of land and keep an eye on the new trees and care for them. Much more roadside planting along our lanes could happen and farmers could have a lot more encouragement to repair and enhance their broken and happy hedgerows. Classes on layering hedges rather than taking the tractor along just to cut them, would vastly improve their use by wildlife. Perhaps the council could incentivise this or provide a team to help farmers (27).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>How about getting trained ecologists on board working at WBC? Getting them to look after trees and respect them in life and death, especially in this time of a Climate Emergency which WBC is keen to promote, is the way forward. Not cutting trees down will save money, unless there is an ulterior motive as to why WBC is happy to have trees felled? It's terribly ironic that as our world gets hotter and drier,</p>	<p>Comment: The strategy states that all staff dealing with trees whether in a planning, landscape, design, highway, safety or operational context will hold the relevant skills, experience and qualifications to undertake their particular roles and that our skilled ranger will train others in woodland management skills. Many of our partners and stakeholders on the strategy also have a background in ecology. Trees</p>

<p>we are felling more trees than ever before. Shameful. Wirral needs a genuine tree strategy that works for them, Nature and us. Wirral needs to set an example what trees can mean to us all. I look forward to your reply (31)</p>	<p>are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing and by committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance</p>
<p>We all need to breathe! Tree removal IS removal of bio-diversity. Increase bio-diversity by LEAVING TREES ALONE. If a tree is leaning...provide it with PROPS Council officers need to be trained in the science of trees and care for our mature trees Guides to 'good management' need to be updated now that we have a Climate Emergency and Wirral has been stripped of almost all it's ancient and veteran trees.; For 'ancient and veteran' we now need to address mature trees with these care strategies VALUE WIRRAL'S TREES;...and all their associated wildlife-Have a blanket tree protection for all mature trees. -Allow trees with diseased limbs or standing deadwoods to remain INTACT. Use surround fencing if necessary in order to keep the tree(s) -Do not chip or transport diseased timber ; allow recovery from infection and disease by leaving the trees undisturbed within the natural ecology. -Have processes of prosecution that de-incentivises felling effectively Learn from practices of other local authorities who prosecute with fines of e.g. £50,000 for tree removal. -Prosecute for habitat loss/increased flood liability/etc from tree removal. -Do not employ people with qualifications in tree-felling and vested interests in removing our timber to 'look after' our trees. -Use CAVAT systems to VALUE our tree resources as they stand and grow. They are our inheritance. Use 'i-tree' to survey trees for their VALUE. The Council's role in this Climate Emergency is vital: -Educate the public that trees which are flagged as 'dropping leaves' or 'blocking light' or 'spoiling the view' will pale into insignificance when we can't breathe for lack of oxygen, and heavy pollutants are killing our (unborn) babies and elderly, (already 40,000 pollutant related deaths a year and huge increases in pollutant-linked miscarriage) and our wildlife is becoming extinct. - Street-tree planting; Plant-up our streets and educate people to look after the trees outside their homes (i.e. not damage roots or relentlessly prune) -Fallen leaves can be swept up rather than blown with petrol leaf-blowers saving money and pollution) - Educate why the Council banned toxins such as glyphosate in order to protect the</p>	<p>Comment: WBC is committed to protecting and increasing biodiversity and will therefore plant a wider range of genera and species and encourage natural regeneration where possible. The strategy also states that any planned work on trees or woodland on council land will take account of biodiversity issues for example bird nests and bat roosts are screened for.</p> <p>All staff dealing with trees whether in a planning, landscape, design, highway, safety or operational context will hold the relevant skills, experience and qualifications to undertake their particular roles and that our skilled ranger will train others in woodland management skills. A comprehensive review of TPOs and their enforcement will ensure those who unlawfully remove trees are prosecuted and that any new TPOs deemed necessary are introduced. Deadwood is left in situ where it is safe and possible to do so, particularly if it is judged to be ecologically valuable for invertebrates and will only be removed if there are safety concerns. The first outcome of the strategy is to support a survey of all Wirral's trees to form a single data base using i-tree eco and i-tree canopy surveys, and CAVAT valuations are being considered. Street planting on marginal land such as grassy verges is a key part of the strategy. In terms of educating the general public, the strategy commits to sharing information more widely with interested groups, individuals and the general public and encouraging residents to get involved with local tree planting efforts to raise awareness of the importance of trees. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance. All appropriate guidance including the Tree Council's toolkit will be followed when responding to diseases such as ash dieback, as detailed in Appendix 5 of the Tree Strategy, and the Woodland Trust have been involved with the strategy as an external partner.</p>

<p>public/dogs and wildlife from related cancers and poisoning -Litigate to stop private tree-fellers touting their door-to-door business to cut and fell private garden trees. -Place signage as to the VALUE of trees for the canopy habitat that is provided. That because trees are tall they are NOT dangerous. Again...we are not stupid and we do not need to be patronised by the council trying to claim that they are "carrying out felling and works on trees for our own safety". -Stop spending our public money on actively destroying our environment. We need MORE trees not less. -Promote an onus of responsibility onto people with garden space or private land to plant trees and hedgerows for the sake of us all. - Educate the 'friends' groups of our borough's parks that trees are VITAL to our health and must be saved at any cost rather than felled. And that there is a legal duty of care to RETAIN our trees and ecosystems, especially as so many of our gardens are now paved over. Our parks with canopy vegetation are our boroughs LUNGS. -Educate that cutting all shrubbery's to knee-height is NOT conducive to encouraging bio-diversity; e.g. birds need to nest ABOVE predator height. -Educate that mature trees and all the wildlife therein cannot be "replaced" by planting a few spindly sapling trees. -Educate that resilience to disease exists WITHIN the ecology we have already...they will establish resilience (see the Woodland Trust disease management 2019) -Actively encourage 're-wilding'...it does exactly that....enables wildlife to re-establish (32).</p>	
<p>Be more proactive in highlighting green initiatives such as this to the public, e.g. by using information boards in the vicinity (33).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Communications need to be technical and expert but delivered in easily understandable language (35).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>The Council's communications are lousy - they can only get better! (36).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Certainly do: Wirral has many open spaces and parks- it was surely possible that some of those involved in caring for them-over many years- might just have had the odd relevant idea or access to local communities who would (44).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>A tree being cut down always sparks reaction and discussion on social media. Naturally most people are angry that the tree has gone without perhaps understanding the reason behind it. Would it be</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

<p>possible to communicate with residents the reasons for the felling or tree management? (45).</p>	
<p>I am pasting below the For Trees comments. Just last Monday 16th December, Chris Packham stated on the BBC Today Programme, when talking about HS2, that it was ridiculous to allege that planting 3 saplings for each old tree felled would compensate for the loss of sequestration of carbon. It takes 100 years for a sapling to grow to a mature tree the size of those trees being felled by Mancoed in Royden Park etc. I have been involved in planting thousands of trees both in Spain and in the Middle East to stabilise soil erosion, attract cooler weather and improve the amenity. Fig. 1 of your plan? Who are your totally independent arboriculturists - name them. Can we see the paper trail leading to the felling of the trees in Ashton Park November 2018? Box 1: who is the independent professional surveyor? Box 2: TPOs should be put on all mature trees, NOT just on those trees which are important to local surroundings. And then enforce them. What is the contract with Mancoed and how much profit do they make from chipping the timber or selling it to Drax. Quote: Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Councils have an obligation to protect trees. By felling and removing parts of trees, Councils are already operating in breach of the law. The Wildlife and Countryside act 1991 makes it an offence to carry out works on trees wilfully during the nesting season. Probable bat roosts are being felled with no bat surveys being carried out. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act of 2006 states that Councils and local authorities have a statutory duty to protect biodiversity, as is the law according to the European and Habitats Directive; making environmental protection a legal obligation. The Council has a duty to make provision for the preservation of trees and woodlands. According to the Aarhus Convention to which Britain is a signatory, there is an obligation to educate the public about the natural environment. This education should be a TRUTHFUL reflection of the risks of tree loss, and the realistic effects on climate change from removing our mature trees. There is a lack of education as to the VALUE of trees and this extends to private loggers and felling companies touting for business at schools, care homes, etc. A blanket TPO approach is necessary with full and effective</p>	<p>Comment: The strategy has undergone considerable change since it's public consultation form to provide more ambitious and clear goals. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance. The number of replacement trees planted will be determined in relation to the size of the original tree felled in order that the climate benefits will be the same within a reasonable time frame. Decision makers on tree work are either internal tree officers or external tree surveyors, both of whom have extensive expertise with regards to tree maintenance and management and our tree officers always check contractors' recommendations. A comprehensive review of TPOs and their enforcement will ensure those who unlawfully remove trees will be prosecuted and that any new TPOs deemed necessary are introduced. Trees are never felled for economic gain, and one of the outcomes of the strategy is to ensure the protection of existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows, as well as the planting of new ones. The strategy also states that any planned work on trees or woodland on council land will take account of biodiversity issues for example bird nests and bat roosts are screened for. In terms of educating the general public, the strategy commits to sharing information more widely with interested groups, individuals and the general public and encouraging residents to get involved with local tree planting efforts to raise awareness of the importance of trees. All appropriate guidance including the Tree Council's toolkit will be followed when responding to diseases such as ash dieback, as detailed in Appendix 5 of the Tree Strategy, and the Woodland Trust have been involved with the strategy as an external partner. The first outcome of the strategy is to support a survey of all Wirral's trees to form a single data base using i-tree eco and i-tree canopy surveys, and CAVAT valuations are being considered.</p>

prosecutions for tree removal. These prosecutions need to be extended to planning development sites to prevent land being bought and mass vegetation felling and clearance routinely carried out PRIOR to submitting planning applications. Tree planting is essential to the survival of our planet; spending public monies on the felling and removal of trees is a destructive and out-dated concept that has allowed profiteering of timber companies at the expense of the health of the public (40,000 people in our country die of polluted air- tree-felling removes our filtering systems) and our ecology. In accordance with recommendations by the Woodland Trust; NO diseased timber should be chipped or transported from site. Studies show that plant disease is best tackled by natural regeneration (Nature Ecology & Evolution). Further to this, no logging companies should be employed by the Council to fell trees/ remove limbs and profit from harvesting public trees. Nor should members of the public be allowed to harvest felled timbers from sites. Tree-care should remain 'in-house' with Council workers CARING for mature trees; fencing them or supporting them where appropriate, but essentially allowing them to grow to their NATURAL shapes and states to include all the associated ecology. Leaves should be swept and mulched NOT blown with loud polluting petrol-guzzling apparatus. The HSE (Health and Safety Executive) now recognise that any 'risk' below 1 in 1 million is classed as insignificant or negligible risk: HSE have death or serious injury from trees as 1 in 150 million. Mature trees provide an invaluable asset in the fight against climate change, flood prevention, O2 production, carbon sequestration, pollution filtration etc. and bring overwhelming benefits to local communities in terms of both clean air for public health and quality of life for residents. Their contribution to bio-diversity is tremendously significant. The felling of mature trees for accident prevention purposes is entirely misguided, serving as much purpose as would knocking down all buildings in order to prevent the potential for falling roof tiles and masonry in a storm. Researchers discovered that older trees (around 120years+) didn't grow old, weaken, bow and become fragile then slow down - the opposite happened: older trees grow more quickly are full of energy and are highly productive and more effective carbon sequesters than young trees. (Wohlleben, 2016) Wirral Council

<p>needs to survey all its trees with a view to their PRESERVATION; such as using i-tree and measuring CAVAT values (Capital Asset Value of Amenity Trees). We have to learn from good practice (for example Madrid's Tree Strategy and management where streets and parks are lined with many hollow veteran trees fitted with 'bat caging' (to admit bats but protect from predators or humans) and tall trees on roundabouts are anchored with cables, etc). Looking after our mature trees allows the ecology to look after itself (48).</p>	
<p>At present communication with the general public and with tree felling operatives is very poor nor do any sanctions seem to be being applied when TPOs are blatantly flouted (49).</p>	<p>Comment: The strategy will have an open and clear communication strategy that enables public information, advice and support to be provided, in a consistent manner. A comprehensive review of TPOs and their enforcement will ensure those who unlawfully remove trees will be prosecuted.</p> <p>Action: Outcome 9 of the strategy is to improve communication channels between WBC and residents to ensure advanced notice and reasoning for essential works are given across multiple platforms from temporary signs on site to information online.</p>
<p>I think you should give residents an opportunity to have their opinions listened to . . . more awareness is needed - I didn't know about this survey till it popped up on the Intranet (51).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Don't depend on internet contact. MANY older people don't use it at all (52).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Please communicate better. Notify residents well in advance if a tree is to be felled and it isn't an emergency. The shock factor is very disturbing and could be alleviated with notice and a gentle explanation. Whenever possible, share information such as tree surveys. Lack of transparency leads to suspicion of wrongdoing unnecessarily (59).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>I think you need to have a proper consultation with groups and organisations of areas that you were proposing to take trees down from and do it as a community rather than taking away trees full of heritage for no reason (61).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>It'd be great to be kept informed about the implementation of this strategy (63).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>All people must be involved but especially the older person and schools (67).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>



<p>No (68).</p> <p>Communication on the Tree Strategy has been appalling. Parks Friends Groups and the Parks Friends Forum are key stakeholders in the Tree Strategy (it says so and rightly). But Wirral Planners, the Head of Parks and the Friends Forum did not inform Friends Groups until the Friends of Ashton Park asked where the Tree Strategy had got to. It seems it had been rushed out before the General Election was announced without telling anybody. There seems to be evidence that the strategy was not finalised for consultation but was sent out unfinished. Is this so? Where is the publicity in the papers from the PR Section. Is there a plan for dissemination of the consultation draft. If not why not? The questionnaire is also poor as it asks the questions that the drafter feels should be asked and does not give the freedom for respondents to make constructive comments and criticism - for instance there is no "Any other comments" box (70).</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Comment: The public consultation was made available online for any member of the general public to comment on for 6 weeks and was devised in close collaboration with key groups and stakeholders. The strategy has undergone considerable revision in collaboration with our key stakeholders</p> <p>Since the consultation version, taking this public consultation feedback into account as well. The survey included a series of open and closed questions to determine levels of agreement with the proposed tree maintenance and planting proposals, as well as provide opportunity for comment on how to ensure a biodiverse and resilient tree stock, where to plant new trees, and how to improve communications.</p> <p>Action: Ensure continued effective communication with all stakeholders throughout the process of producing, consulting on, and finalising the strategy. Ensure there is a free comments box for any additional comments respondents wish to make at the end of the survey.</p>
<p>Keep talking about how important this is (71).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>No communication at all. Totally disgusted! (75).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>The public are rarely notified when trees are due to be felled. Notices would give people chance to have their say (76).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>There doesn't seem to be ANY communication to the public - the first thing most people know is that a tree has been cut down and when people try and contact the Council there is no answer. Apart from on line, the best way to contact the public is through local newspapers, public buildings like libraries or interested groups in parks and gardens (78).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Land use is a key part of tackling the climate emergency. I am interested in sustainable transport so I see big opportunities for repurposing land that is currently given over for storage and movement of private cars. Could we go as far as removing certain roads to allow for biodiversity to flourish? Roads but through our green space. If a road could be removed or reduced to a walking/cycling track then nature can be given much more space to do its thing. I have ideas on roads that would fit this approach :-) Likewise, if car ownership drops, then car parks will be available for</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

<p>use - this may be ideal for either tree planting or housing depending on the location (81).</p>	
<p>More should be done to engage the public (83).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Needs better publication I only found out by chance (86).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>It's not reaching enough people! (88).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>I think the need for this strategy should be publicised more widely, with visual presentations in local papers and public buildings. Not enough people realise how vitally important trees are (89).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>There is inadequate and biased information being given out to 'Friends of' groups implying that surveys are overdue and that trees are dangerous. The Council has to take responsibility to educate and tell the truth about the REALITY of risk and the reality of dangers of losing our vital tree network. Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Councils have an obligation to protect trees. By felling and removing parts of trees, Councils are already operating in breach of the law. The Wildlife and Countryside act 1991 makes it an offense to carry out works on trees wilfully during the nesting season. Probable bat roosts are being felled with no bat surveys being carried out. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act of 2006 states that Councils and local authorities have a statutory duty to protect biodiversity, as is the law according to the European and Habitats Directive; making environmental protection a legal obligation. The Council has a duty to make provision for the preservation of trees and woodlands. According to the Aarhus Convention to which Britain is a signatory, there is an obligation to educate the public about the natural environment. This education should be a TRUTHFUL reflection of the risks of tree loss, and the realistic effects on climate change from removing our mature trees. There is a lack of education as to the VALUE of trees and this extends to private loggers and felling companies touting for business at schools, care homes, etc. A blanket TPO approach is necessary with full and effective prosecutions for tree removal. These prosecutions need to be extended to planning development sites to prevent land being bought and mass vegetation felling and clearance routinely carried out PRIOR to submitting planning applications. Tree planting is essential to the survival of our planet; spending public monies on the felling and removal of trees is a destructive and out-dated concept that has</p>	<p>Comment: Protecting, preserving, and expanding Wirral's tree stock is a key priority of the Tree Strategy. Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. The safety of our residents is paramount thus we must be proactive, but the risk is being managed proportionally. WBC follows the guidance of the National Tree Safety Group (supported by the Health and Safety Executive). Felling is never carried out for financial gain. The strategy acknowledges that WBC is bound by the "biodiversity duty" which states that in exercising its functions it must have regard for conserving biodiversity (Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006). The strategy also states that any planned work on trees or woodland on council land will take account of biodiversity issues for example bird nests and bat roosts are screened for. In terms of educating the general public, the strategy commits to sharing information more widely with interested groups, individuals and the general public and encouraging residents to get involved with local tree planting efforts.</p> <p>WBC will only fell trees when they are dangerous and there is a risk of people being injured, or disease would have adverse impact on the remaining stock. A tree is considered dangerous if it is in very poor condition, for example because of a significant or notifiable disease or if it is structurally unsound.</p> <p>WBC is committed to protecting and increasing biodiversity and will therefore plant a wider range of genera and species and encourage natural regeneration where possible. The strategy also states that any planned work on trees or woodland on council land will take account of biodiversity issues for example bird nests and bat roosts are screened for. All staff dealing with trees whether in a planning, landscape, design, highway, safety or operational context will hold the relevant</p>

allowed profiteering of timber companies at the expense of the health of the public (40,000 people in our country die of polluted air- tree-felling removes our filtering systems) and our ecology. In accordance with recommendations by the Woodland Trust; NO diseased timber should be chipped or transported from site. Studies show that plant disease is best tackled by natural regeneration (Nature Ecology & Evolution). Further to this, no logging companies should be employed by the Council to fell trees/ remove limbs and profit from harvesting public trees. Nor should members of the public be allowed to harvest felled timbers from sites. Tree-care should remain 'in-house' with Council workers CARING for mature trees; fencing them or supporting them where appropriate, but essentially allowing them to grow to their NATURAL shapes and states to include all the associated ecology. Leaves should be swept and mulched NOT blown with loud polluting petrol-guzzling apparatus. The HSE (Health and Safety Executive) now recognise that any 'risk' below 1 in 1 million is classed as insignificant or negligible risk: HSE have death or serious injury from trees as 1 in 150 million. Mature trees provide an invaluable asset in the fight against climate change, flood prevention, O2 production, carbon sequestration, pollution filtration etc. and bring overwhelming benefits to local communities in terms of both clean air for public health and quality of life for residents. Their contribution to bio-diversity is tremendously significant. The felling of mature trees for accident prevention purposes is entirely misguided, serving as much purpose as would knocking down all buildings in order to prevent the potential for falling roof tiles and masonry in a storm. Researchers discovered that older trees (around 120years+) didn't grow old, weaken, bow and become fragile then slow down - the opposite happened: older trees grow more quickly are full of energy and are highly productive and more effective carbon sequesters than young trees. (Wohlleben, 2016)Wirral Council needs to survey all its trees with a view to their PRESERVATION; such as using i-tree and measuring CAVAT values (Capital Asset Value of Amenity Trees). We have to learn from good practice (for example Madrid's Tree Strategy and management where streets and parks are lined with many hollow veteran trees fitted with 'bat caging' (to admit bats but protect from predators or humans) and tall trees on

skills, experience and qualifications to undertake their particular roles and that our skilled ranger will train others in woodland management skills. A comprehensive review of TPOs and their enforcement will ensure those who unlawfully remove trees are prosecuted and that any new TPOs deemed necessary are introduced. Deadwood is left in situ where it is safe and possible to do so, particularly if it is judged to be ecologically valuable for invertebrates and will only be removed if there are safety concerns. The first outcome of the strategy is to support a survey of all Wirral's trees to form a single data base using i-tree eco and i-tree canopy surveys, and CAVAT valuations are being considered. Street planting on marginal land such as grassy verges is a key part of the strategy. In terms of educating the general public, the strategy commits to sharing information more widely with interested groups, individuals and the general public and encouraging residents to get involved with local tree planting efforts to raise awareness of the importance of trees. By committing to plant 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost due to essential maintenance. All appropriate guidance including the Tree Council's toolkit will be followed when responding to diseases such as ash dieback, as detailed in Appendix 5 of the Tree Strategy, and the Woodland Trust have been involved with the strategy as an external partner. Trees are never felled for economic gain, and one of the outcomes of the strategy is to ensure the protection of existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows, as well as the planting of new ones.

<p>roundabouts are anchored with cables, etc). Looking after our mature trees allows the ecology to look after itself (92).</p>	
<p>It is non-existent at present and there is no opportunity for residents to have their opinions heard (94).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>I consider the council to have proceeded with tree felling without any consultation outrageous. By the time the public are aware of what is being done , it is too late for people to take action. I have asked and will ask again why the council is wasting money on this work when they could be following positive procedures. I have never had the courtesy of a reply to any of my concerns (95).</p>	<p>Comment: Trees are only felled where necessary for essential maintenance if there is a genuine risk of them collapsing. The safety of our residents is paramount thus we must be proactive, but the risk is being managed proportionally. Outcome 9 of the strategy is to improve communication channels between WBC and residents to ensure advanced notice and reasoning for essential works are given across multiple platforms from temporary signs on site to information online.</p> <p>Action: WBC will develop effective communication channels using both online and paper-based platforms as well as face-to-face local meetings to support the strategy and effectively communicate about the occurrence of and reasoning for planned works. WBC will share this information more widely with interested groups, individuals and the general public.</p>
<p>WBC wants to raise awareness re tree management but had already failed to widely publicise this tree strategy. There weren't any paper copies in libraries until residents chased that up. People without internet can't comment. Did WBC use the Wirral Globe? Why weren't paper posters distributed to all friends groups / Community organisations for their notice boards? (97).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Residents should be involved with decisions about our trees. Those in the public domain are our collective assets. The strategy could adopt ideas put forward by Michael Gove when he was Environment Minister, e.g. public consultation on the future of street trees. We could involve schools and places of education, community groups and care homes for example, in understanding how trees contribute to our environment and well being, and enable them to get involved in planting hedging, trees and orchards on and in their localities (101).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Maybe individuals or companies could be invited to sponsor an additional tree in remembrance of someone in other places than just cemeteries. I would also like to see high hedges (if possible) on a road/motorway/railway bridge, somewhere in the borough that has repeated attempted or successful suicides, as an experiment to see if</p>	<p>Noted</p>

<p>this reduces this type of incidents on our roads/rail services a that point (105).</p>	
<p>Yes, say nothing (106).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Council needs to involve communities more actively. We need as many trees as possible so can there be community level involvement and support for local initiatives? I have been delighted to see groups of people take over small areas and plant on them but some of us don't have the skills - help us! Please can we have access to Rake Lane Cemetery. This was my tree place until I was locked out by the double gates. We must make areas available to everyone! (108).</p>	<p>Comment: The strategy commits to sharing information more widely with interested groups, individuals and the general public and encouraging residents to get involved with local tree planting efforts to raise awareness of the importance of trees.</p>
<p>What the public see are reports, strategies and lots of words, but very little 'face-to-public' communication. In other words - real communication. There needs to be more of that as 'the Public' are tired of meaningless words (110).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Have seen very little about it (111).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Most people are unaware of the extent of the felling that Wirral Council has recently, and continues, to perform. They will only be aware in their own area that they immediately see. Any challenge to the council is met with a re-confirmation that the council is protecting the public from risk etc under their 'duty of care'. As stated earlier, it is not a matter of communicating the rationale that trees need to be felled to protect the council from litigation etc,... the strategy needs to be dramatically re-assessed to one of protection and tree care. This is the 'councils duty of care in this climate emergency and natural habitat loss for so many reasons. Surveys should initially be to identify trees with potential issues and then a further review of each tree identified to put in place protection measures instead of felling. There should be a clear route where the public can see what is being surveyed, what recommendations are being made and one that takes into account the public desire to protect and maintain existing mature trees (113).</p>	<p>Comment: Outcome 9 of the strategy is to improve communication channels between WBC and residents to ensure advanced notice and reasoning for essential works are given across multiple platforms from temporary signs on site to information online.</p> <p>Action: WBC will develop effective communication channels using both online and paper-based platforms as well as face-to-face local meetings to support the strategy and effectively communicate about the occurrence of and reasoning for planned works. WBC will share this information more widely with interested groups, individuals and the general public.</p>
<p>Publication in local press would be good (116).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Only heard about it via email which went to my junk folder (117).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Schools and colleges need to be advised and targeted as the students are the future (118).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>People should be informed about work to be undertaken - I am aware of "tree huggers" locally who have interrupted and stopped council</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

workers dealing with trees in my neighbourhood and if people were informed about the reasons why work was being done then maybe this would stop these disruptors (119).	
No (120).	Noted.
Employ more eco officers to visit schools and educate children not just in primary, but also secondary schools where interest in the environment is low (121).	Noted.
Only that in areas where vandalism is a problem, give the residents a stake in it by letting them pick the tree they want (out of a suitable list suitable for the area) They then might protect it (122).	Noted.
Work with local groups and keep residents informed about what you are doing and why. You need to do this via different media and local associations to ensure your message gets out to as many as possible (129).	Noted.
What on earth does this mean??? (130).	Comment: The question asked whether respondents had any thoughts on how communications around tree work could be improved.
Communication needs to be wide ranging and continuous - people forget unless the issue is revisited regularly (134).	Noted.
The general public need to be made aware of all potential tree planting programs and the long term maintenance care costs. Some varieties of tree may look beautiful as young saplings but can grow at an alarming rate and cause more problems than they solve (135).	Noted.
Using podcasts could be a useful additional means of communication with the public. Put links to these on other sites e.g. conservation groups, local history groups etc Written information and information that is only available on the council website is probably insufficient to reach many members of the community who have an interest in caring for trees and green spaces (136).	Noted.
I was expecting a free text box to comment on specific matters but there is not one hence I post my general comments here. 1. I see the 10% increase as lacking ambition - it should be higher and there should also be a stretch target. 2. The 10% target would be more understandable if declared in terms of the hectares / acres it represents. 3. The '2-trees-planted-per-one-felled' is also lacking ambition - if local manufacturers can manage 3 per tree felled then we should at least match that. 4. It should be really easy for residents to get involved in planting in order to save money on council tax,	Noted.

<p>especially planting whips and feathers. The strategy talks vaguely about community groups but I would not know who that means for me. How would anybody get involved? There should be a very clear and simple method of residents getting involved in planting. 5. Landowners who contacted the council to try to sell their green belt land for housebuilding should be given the opportunity to give their land for free planting if they can't be bothered to farm it (137).</p>	
<p>If the council are interested in our new tree nursery business in Wirral and maybe purchasing young trees from us, we can be contacted on. Cliff. 07866368355 (138).</p>	Noted.
<p>To save the waste of public Christmas trees, plant permanent trees to be decorated seasonally. Permanent signs could be placed by newly planted trees to explain their value and presence (139).</p>	Noted.
<p>Half the people don't care, they are always chopping trees down in their gardens or because it improves their view. The Wirral way shows that. But concentrate on people who do care and kids etc. Make the trees their heritage. People die and move away so the long term plan has to be something built in and passed on through the council (140).</p>	Noted.
<p>Emphasis on schools for informing the young (141).</p>	Noted.
<p>Put posters up everywhere and go into the schools to get children and the community involved in caring for the trees (and don't leave the poor trees to be strangled by using tree-ties which you fail to remove in time!) (143).</p>	Noted.
<p>Yes, we've been horrified to see the trees in Port Sunlight removed so when you came to remove the trees in Pollitt Square, the information sheet we received showing us the trees and more importantly the reasons why they were being removed was reassuring. This is a critical step in preparing people and we were so pleased that we understood the reasons taken (144).</p>	Noted.
<p>Need to improve communications within the Council. Some staff who should be aware of strategy weren't/aren't (147).</p>	Noted.
<p>,,,j, (149)</p>	Noted.
<p>Communication within the document is poor. The council still insists on using the invalid point of managing trees 'on behalf of Wirral's residents and visitors'. The idea that trees pose a danger to the public is a myth. I don't see how local councils think they have the right to</p>	Noted.

<p>fell mature trees, using the excuse that they are protecting the general public. This has to stop. This is promoting the idea that trees are dangerous, which is the opposite to what the public need to be made aware of. People must be educated about the importance of trees, and the seriousness of today's global situation (150).</p>	
<p>Perhaps the public should have more education on trees and why they matter to air pollution and how much they cost the council and not to vandalise them (151).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Yes... much more info is needed and not solely on line.... Use library windows to display attractively presented info to passers-by as well as those who go into libraries. Inform via schools, churches Print media (156).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>The document is very specific about trees only being felled as a last resort and when there is a health and safety risk. However they may well be other reasons to fell otherwise healthy and safe trees e.g. for tree legacy to increase the diversity (age/species) of a monoculture woodland or stand of trees. Also, in managing the tree stock of a heritage landscape such as Birkenhead Park there may be trees which need to be removed because in the past they've been planted in the wrong place and are contrary to the original design intentions. The document should consider that there are exceptions (157).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>very poor (158).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>It will only get to the tiny minority who are already interested (159).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>As far as I can see there is no public awareness. I found this out as I am a member of Cheshire Wildlife Trust - it's the first I've heard of it (161).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>There isn't any. Done by stealth so no one can object (162).</p>	<p>Comment: The public consultation was made available online for any member of the general public to comment on for 6 weeks. Outcome 9 of the strategy is to improve communication channels between WBC and residents to ensure advanced notice and reasoning for essential works are given across multiple platforms from temporary signs on site to information online.</p>
<p>This is our environment, our future health and welfare rests, often on small things, that overall have import side effects on all our future lives. Have you truly looked into the environmental issues of cutting down ancient trees? I'm not sure what the communications approach is, to raise public awareness of tree management, if it just about</p>	<p>Noted.</p>



<p>having this consultation on your web site that isn't enough. I would imagine that most of the population, unless they are proactive and do some digging and research on your policies, wouldn't be aware of how important trees are to our environment. How public? is having a consultation on a web site, tucked away within a computer system. Thanks Moya You have asked a question below, about what areas need new trees being planted, you should know this, through your research on effects on pollution in certain areas of the Wirral (165).</p>	
<p>I only came upon this by accident as I was researching help for trees in danger locally, but I don't feel this important topic is publicised widely enough (168).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>The Council needs to demonstrate that it is committed to extending the present tree cover by being seen to manage the existing woodland. AT PRESENT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE COUNCIL IS DOING THIS (173).</p>	<p>Comment: The headline commitment in the final version of the tree strategy is to plant at least 210,000 trees over the course of the strategy, thereby doubling canopy cover by the time the trees are fully grown.</p>
<p>emphasise the importance of dead and dying trees- they can still support so much wildlife, if they are not posing a risk then encourage people to leave them alone, or at least leave the wood in situ (174).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Keep us informed please (179).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Communication is key. Looking on social media lots of people do not realise that Wirral's plans is to plant more trees - this message needs to get out. Use social media and Wirral newspapers (180).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Communicating with the public is an important part of being a local authority and I think, keeping the public updated and informed about a very important asset of the borough is necessary. These communications could be made through social media channels, the climate emergency and environment newsletters or via our Wirral View site. A mapping system could also potentially be used. This system could plot the trees across the borough and monitor them - this could also be a way for residents to log any trees that they spot with any diseases. This map would also be a way to show the number and spread of trees across Wirral. The map which notes all the TPO's could be amended to include this information too (181).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>What communication has taken place? (184).</p>	<p>Comment: The public consultation on the tree strategy was made available online for any member of the general public to comment on for 6 weeks. Outcome 9 of the strategy is to improve communication channels between WBC and residents to ensure advanced notice and</p>

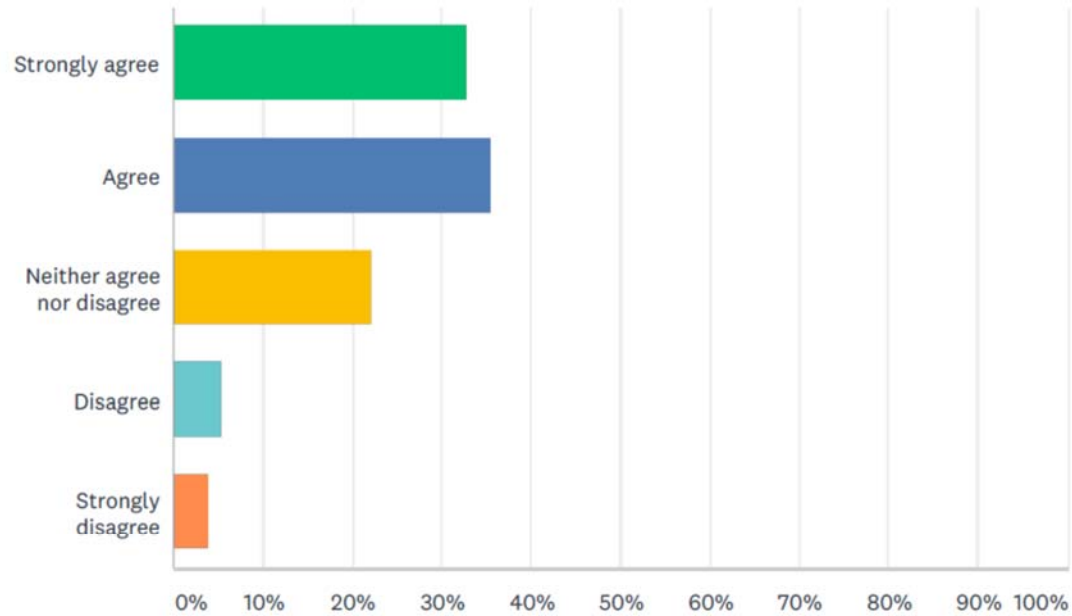
	reasoning for essential works are given across multiple platforms from temporary signs on site to information online.
Get young people involved more on this strategy (186).	Noted.
Greater distribution of communication to the public, I only happened upon this purely by chance. I would imagine the vast majority of the borough have no ideal about this strategy/consultation therefore are not in a position to contribute or comment! (193).	Noted.
I strongly feel that as the trees are "public property" (as per your report), when trees are to be felled, the public are given the opportunity to make use of the wood resource in one of the ways you highlight in your report - either as lumber for construction purposes or fuel but - chippings for paths in gardens and allotments are also a good and bio diverse use. I do also believe that Council employed local arborists or at least local contractors should be used for any felling work and a list of places where upcoming work is to be undertaken made publicly available on the Council website & otherwise communicated to those not online; it would likely also need some mechanism created whereby Wirral residents can avail themselves of the resource (maybe at a sensibly low cost) & only in the case where it is not required locally, should it be sold outside the Borough (197).	Noted.
There is non if a tree is to be cut down there is no communication, also if the trees are on private land people are just allowed to chop down as many trees as they like (198).	Noted.
No (199).	Noted.
I would not have known about it - I stumbled upon it! (204).	Noted.
In areas where many trees are anticipated to be felled, the public should be informed by way of a notice near the site and should reassure the public that the replanting is to take place (206).	Noted.
Excellent idea, as long as contact details are readily available and responses are encouraging. Council still has to be seen to deliver on issues with trees that are its own responsibility, though, even if they delegate the work to licenced/qualified/insured volunteer groups. You could have a 'Flowering Cherry in trouble' survey next April/May (207).	Noted.
The Friends of Warwick Park do there best in this respect (208).	Noted.

<p>We need greater communication. Tree planting is the best thing we can all be involved in as a community right now and it is a very good way of highlighting the emergency we are in. We need to invest in more council employees to oversee the work and look after the trees. We cannot rely on volunteers for an essential service (209).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>The council should in all cases be sure that you let the local population informed of the works (212).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>non native trees and shrubs should be removed (214).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>There is not enough communication. Having a website does not reach the majority of the population. I only saw this consultation by chance (217).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>No (218).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Needs to be improved This survey for example, I only found out through my allotment society, no one else knew about it This is a project the council can easily take forward and develop at relatively little cost, but gain a good profile for if done well (219).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Needs a lot of work. I only found this by accident (221).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>It's pretty non existent (222).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>experience suggests the council will do what it wants (224).</p>	<p>Comment: WBC values the input of key stakeholders and the residents to which it is ultimately accountable, hence this public consultation exercise.</p>
<p>If I didn't see this one post on Facebook I wouldn't have known about this so I don't think you are going far enough to raise public awareness of tree management (225).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Parks are a huge opportunity to provide education. How about QR codes on trees to identify them so that people can look up what the tree is, some of its history (if known) and also see whether any issues have been logged? Whilst boards could be provided to undertake the same function, but would require a greater cost and be more prone to vandalism, as well as interfering with the general look of an area (228).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Needs to be more information for the public on How to apply to have trees protected by a TPO The TPO map How to report trees being cut down. Huge awareness raising of what the Council will do to prosecute and the fines involved. Too many developers are ignoring rules or vaguely citing "safety" There is not enough room on this form for suggestions of areas that should be looked at as a priority. The</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

<p>strategy will not work unless the tree wardens are actively available to take calls, an emergency text facility for alerting them to problems would be a help. Wirral must take legal action against blatant disregard for TPOs. More publicity needed on a sensible approach to safety concerns around trees. Trees sometimes lose branches, they rarely cause damage compared to other risks we encounter every day. Dying trees provide habitats for wildlife (230).</p>	
<p>Good to involve schools in this approach. Perhaps they can plant more trees around school sites and adopt a tree or trees (233).</p>	Noted.
<p>Yes The public should be made more aware of the reason for the Councils proposals and approach in order for them to be brought onside with the strategy. Publications on the Councils website are ineffective as it would only be the committed that would take note (235).</p>	Noted.
<p>See above, Globe etc. (236).</p>	Noted.
<p>I feel that our council do not advertise the protection of trees enough, there should be continuing press campaigns. I also feel that any person found felling a tree(healthy), should receive very heavy fines. This will deter people from future destruction. The felling of trees should be covered by the planning process (239).</p>	Noted.
<p>It isn't fit for purpose! (240).</p>	Noted.
<p>Get local schools to go out with their pupils to plant some trees to raise awareness (244).</p>	Noted.

**To what extent do you agree with the legacy and species selection elements of the draft strategy in context to the native vs non-native species debate, and providing species fitness for their spatial confines?**

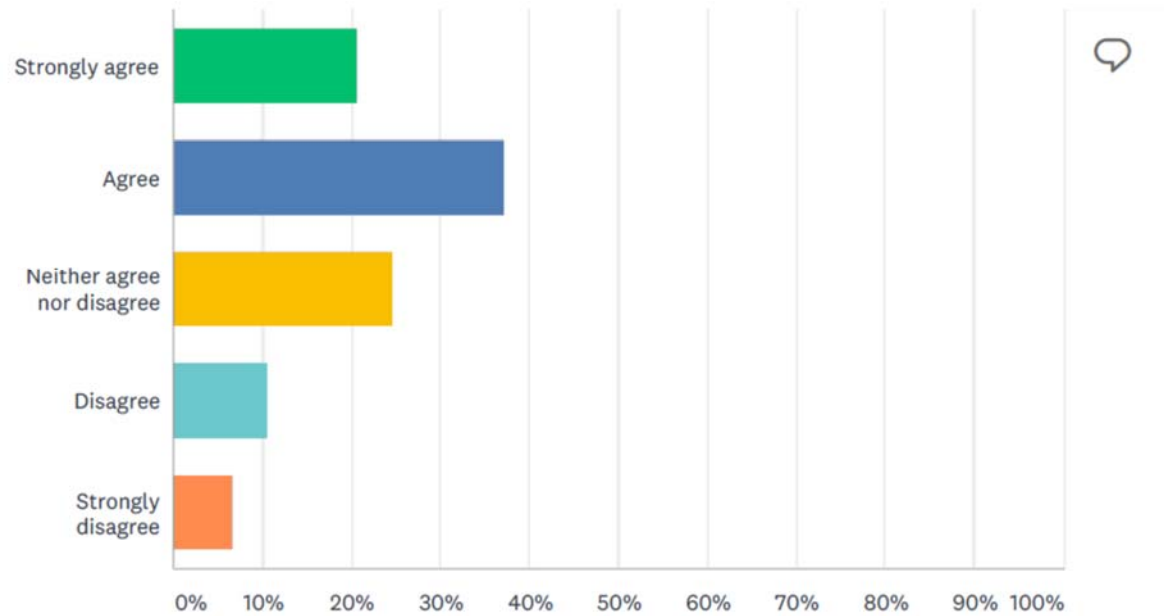
Answered: 149. Skipped: 95.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	32.89%	49
Agree	35.57%	53
Neither agree nor disagree	22.15%	33
Disagree	5.37%	8
Strongly disagree	4.03%	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>149</b>

## To what extent do you feel the draft strategy will support the delivery a safe, sustainable, resilient and diverse tree stock for Wirral?

Answered: 150. Skipped: 94.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	20.67%	31
Agree	37.33%	56
Neither agree nor disagree	24.67%	37
Disagree	10.67%	16
Strongly disagree	6.67%	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>150</b>

**Are there any locations in Wirral that you would like to recommend as an area to be considered for new tree planting. Where possible give the nearest postcode or street name.**

Answered: 113. Skipped: 131.

Comments (Respondent Number)	Response
<p>All road verges wide enough to leave a strip of grass, e.g. such as just south of Heron Lane farm, Meols.</p> <p>All along the banks of the Birket.</p> <p>Round the edges of Upton Meadow wood, which could be extended.</p> <p>Round the many horse-fields between Meols and Leasowe (7).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Wirral schools.</p> <p>Wirral Parks where many trees have been removed over the last decade.</p> <p>Grass verges and return to avenuing Wirral roads planting trees on both sides.</p> <p>Green fields and all Wirral's green-belt (9).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>All urban roadside verges (10).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Stanton Road, Bebington, CH63 (sites where trees have been felled recently and not replaced)</p> <p>The Village/Civic Way, Bebington, CH63 (sites where trees have been felled recently and not replaced) (12).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Any area of woodland or copse that it currently under threat from the Local Plan due to proposed housing development (14).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Everywhere (15).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Shorefields area, New Ferry.</p> <p>Pollitt Square, New Ferry.</p> <p>Grove Square, New Ferry.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Shorefields/Samaria Avenue (17).	
Grange Hill. West Kirby .keep what is left and plant more native.  Grange Park Keep what is left and plant more native.  Frankby Cemetery Keep what is left and plant more native.  ROYSEN PARK KEEP WHAT IS LEFT AND PLANT MORE NATIVE (18).	Noted.
Shorefields New Ferry.  Bebington Road Precinct, New Ferry.  New Ferry Park.  Dibbins hey area Spital (19).	Noted.
Tower Grounds.  motorway embankments.  alongside rail tracks (22).	Noted.
Corner of Arrowe Brook Road & Arrowe Park Road - Wirral Business Park.  Copses (mini woods) could be planted in corners of many playing fields.  Small woods could be planted in Arrowe Park, Royden Park etc.  If there are any brownfield sites NOT suitable for housing - then re-wild them (23).	Noted.
Grange hill.  More on (24).	Noted.
Black Horse and Hilbre schools.  Grange Park (25).	Noted.



<p>Grange Park.</p> <p>Aston Park.</p> <p>Royden Park.</p> <p>Arrow Park (26).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>The road between Moreton and Meols. Hoylake Road/Birkenhead Road. Where it is bordered by farmland, there's lots of space for a native tree corridor. There's wide grass there already and a few trees spaced out.</p> <p>On the coast (53.4052393, -3.1593908) at the bottom of Dovepoint/ Forest Road Meols CH 47.</p> <p>Land behind George Road, Hoylake.</p> <p>Land behind West Kirby tip (27).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Initially replacement of felled trees in my road CH62 6BZ (30).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Every single green space needs more trees, vegetation and wildlife.</p> <p>Plant in groups; one tree doesn't make a forest. Single trees get 'sick.'</p> <p>East Wirral, old farm land, redundant school playing fields.</p> <p>Also need wetlands and meadows (31).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Any empty plots of land; Plant in containers or in the ground.</p> <p>Streets; Re-forest Wirral's urban streets.</p> <p>Homes for the elderly; To help fight lung diseases and add amenity value.</p> <p>All schools; Hedgerows and trees in containers or the ground. Paved gardens; lift the paving and PLANT (32).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>New Brighton Dips (saline resistant) besides.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Railway embankments (33).	
CH64	Noted.
CH65 (40).	
Beechway CH63 3AY (46).	Noted.
New Brighton Seafront towards Leasowe.	Noted.
New Brighton Dips (47).	
Grange Hill.	Noted.
Moreton (48).	
A general recommendation that the boundaries of school sites are planted [ look for instance at the barren wasteland that is St Mary's College in Wallasey Village) (49).	Noted.
All greenfield sites this council has disgustingly picked out for residential development.	Noted.
should have building plans scrapped and replaced with full tree coverage (50).	
Seabank Road.	Noted.
Magazine Conservation Area (51).	
CH48 the disputed area near St Bridgets church owned by the diocese of Chester (52).	Noted.
Everywhere (54).	Noted.
Heswall field, Heswall shore (56).	Noted.
Around Birkenhead North station area.	Noted.
Along open sections of Carr Lane near Meols.	
Reeds Lane and roads off.	
Church Road Birkenhead (58).	
Sand Lea park west Kirby.	Noted.
Outside shops banks road west Kirby (61).	
Ch61 oklea road.	Noted.

Pensby Park.	
Barnston dales.	
Pensby boys school field (62).	
Mayer Park (63).	Noted.
reinstatement of avenues in Greasby CH49 or create new ones ! (67).	Noted.
Land adjacent to scout hut, Thingwall, sparks lane.	Noted.
Land formerly used as Pensby boys school field ch61 Irby road.	
Arrowe Park golf course.	
Grow green corridor from Royden park to Thurstaston common (68).	
Parts of area proposed for Hoylake Golf Resort for wet species like willow.	Noted.
Some coastal areas of dunes with pine trees to develop habitat and coastal defences (70).	
All available areas across the borough (71).	Noted.
Lawned area at Warren Golf Course on Grove Road CH 45 (2 Mature Cherry Trees Just Felled) (72).	Noted.
New Ferry shore, all parks around Merseybank Road.	Noted.
New Ferry road.	
Rock Park (76).	
Tower Grounds New Brighton.	Noted.
The Dips (Kings Parade) New Brighton.	
Ashton Park West Kirby.	
Bidston (78).	
Park on Stanton Road (between Wirral Gardens and Brackenwood Golf Course).	Noted.

<p>Wirral Grammar School for Boys far playing fields.</p> <p>Area of park between The Oval, Bebington High Sports College and Bebington Library (the small one off Teehey Lane) (82).</p>	
<p>Greenbank Rd playing field perimeter west Kirby.</p> <p>Roadsides wherever there is space.</p> <p>New Brighton dips.</p> <p>Along coastal path (83).</p>	Noted.
<p>Thurstaston park area by cliffs / beach.</p> <p>New Brighton open spaces.</p> <p>Wirral way north of Heswall (86).</p>	Noted.
<p>Harrock woods.</p> <p>Pensby Park.</p> <p>Pensby school.</p> <p>Wirral way (88).</p>	Noted.
<p>Rec Stanton Rd.</p> <p>Riverside park New Ferry.</p> <p>Around playing fields in Bromborough.</p> <p>Playing fields in Bebington (89).</p>	Noted.
<p>All grass verges and all Wirral's' streets in paving or in containers.</p> <p>School perimeters especially between school grounds and roads.</p> <p>Block hedging filters pollutants.</p>	Noted.

<p>All our public parks and greenspaces. Any 'brown-field' sites...until they build we need to breathe.</p> <p>Golf courses, surround hedging and woodlands where possible (92).</p>	
<p>Land to the north of Greenbank Road, West Kirby - on the old tip and around periphery of playing fields.</p> <p>On all golf courses around Wirral.</p> <p>At all schools in Wirral.</p> <p>Should be made a compulsory planning condition to include trees on any new development in Wirral (94).</p>	Noted.
<p>Verges on Mill Lane. Greasby. I have paid To have a tree planted.</p> <p>Mill Hill Road Irby (95)</p>	Noted.
<p>Borough road, Birkenhead (grassed area adjacent to CH41 2UZ).</p> <p>Central reservation on Conway Street Birkenhead (A552) (replace removed trees) by Queensway Tunnel roundabout.</p> <p>Increase tree cover in Birkenhead Park by visitor centre (96)</p>	Noted.
<p>Schools : Hilbre high school, black horse Hill junior, Calday Grange grammar school.</p> <p>Grange cemetery and woodland border to black horse Hill (97).</p>	Noted.
<p>Hundreds of sites identified but no space here are a few suggestions: Corner Whetstone Lane and Borough Road, space for 2 Rowan or Whitebeam.</p> <p>Replace the 11 trees felled within the last 5 years along Borough Road, going towards the library.</p> <p>Prenton Dell Road, multiple bare grass verges could sustain smaller trees. Hedging on land behind Hoylake and Gilroy Road.</p>	Noted.

Incorporate multiple trees in Birkenhead redevelopment. Town Meadow Lane Moreton, willow, alder, sallow willow and white poplar (101).	
Clatterbridge motorway overpasses.	Noted.
Raby motorway overpasses (105).	
Question 12 is not a tick box question. The draft contains too many loopholes to be an effective working document.	Noted.
Anywhere where there is just grass (not wildflowers, heathland etc) (106).	
CH45 5BB (108).	Noted.
CH42 Pearson street, Tranmere (109).	Noted.
Mereworth, CH48. There is a green which has some trees but could take more.	Noted.
Ashton Park, West Kirby where so many mature trees were needlessly felled.	
Grange Hill where so many trees and deadwood were recently needless removed.	
Wirral Way, more hedgerows etc. (113).	
Corner of Bedford Road and Old Chester Road, CH42 (114).	Noted.
Ch43 fender walkway/playing fields. (Lots Japanese knotweed there and hedgehogs).	Noted.
Along motorway (117).	
Brown field sites (118).	Noted.
Areas susceptible to flooding may benefit from trees as they help soak up the water (119).	Noted.
Pensby playing field at the end near bungalows - often waterlogged (120).	Noted.
In the vicinity of Prenton Hall Road.	Noted.
In the Prenton Dell area.	

<p>In open fields - create more copses and woods.</p> <p>Embed more trees in the new developments in Birkenhead and Wirral Waters (121).</p>	
<p>Earlston Gardens CH45.</p> <p>The Delph, Rake Lane CH45 (127).</p>	Noted.
<p>In the centre of every roundabout as possible.</p> <p>Cleveland Street - grassed over area.</p> <p>Cleveland st instead of the dump by brasses street.</p> <p>Water front (129).</p>	Noted.
<p>Along the roadside between Heswall and Barnston village ( Barnston Road).</p> <p>On the land on the corner of Boundary Lane and Telegraph are opposite the Catholic Church in Heswall.</p> <p>Along the roadside of Telegraph Rd from Mere Lane Heswall to the Cottage Loaf roundabout.</p> <p>Replace the mature tree felled this year opposite Castle Buildings, Telegraph Rd, Heswall (134).</p>	Noted.
<p>Birkenhead.</p> <p>West Kirby.</p> <p>Hoylake.</p> <p>Wallasey (138).</p>	Noted.
<p>Along footpaths by the Leasowe coastal trail. Many of the old willows are alone and new trees could enhance the look but also help take up flooding (140).</p>	Noted.
<p>Townfield area.</p>	Noted.

<p>Bidston area round proximity to M53 and connect roads.</p> <p>Along the M53, and Moreton Spur.</p> <p>Many roads in Pensby area (141).</p>	
<p>W Kirby area beyond Kale Close.</p> <p>Thurstaston Country park.</p> <p>Around playing fields on Greenbank Rd W Kirby.</p> <p>Ashton Park - replace more aged past their prime trees with new vigorous ones! (143).</p>	Noted.
<p>Pollit Square - everywhere around the green space - it stops quad bikes.</p> <p>New Ferry centre is desperate for trees especially near the explosion site. A community orchard would be wonderful but just green trees and a place to sit under would be wonderful.</p> <p>The Croft Retail Park - it is devoid of life and there is so much space where trees would add so much.</p> <p>The back of our estate where the old hospital used to be would be perfect - there are some native shrubs but very little else. Plenty of space which provides help for wildlife. (Can I have more locations please - I've barely started!?) (144).</p>	Noted.
<p>Brighton street, King Street, Tobin Street, church street -green corridor from Seacombe ferry and prom to central park.</p> <p>St Albans Road, Liscard - circle the shopping centre with trees.</p> <p>Telegraph road, from Hillside to (and including Puddydale - replace/increase trees to reduce pollution.</p>	Noted.



Poulton road, from St Lukes to junction with Wheatland lane -green corridors between park & areas of mass housing, high transport (including from motorway) and poor air quality (147).	
SCHOOL FIELDS.  GOLF COURSES.  STREET TREES in verges or in planters.  ALL PARKS.	Noted.
North End of Birkenhead.  Seacombe. CH44 (151).	Noted.
In the centre of wild plant grass areas e.g. Hoyle Rd Hoylake.  Extra trees in all of the parks towards the edges - to ensure playing space for children (156).	Noted.
Birkenhead town centre.  Northwood rd. Prenton.  side of m53 between junction 1 and 2.  fields behind Sainsbury's Prenton (158).	Noted.
All hedgerows that are flailed too severely (159).	Noted.
Woodlands.  Fearnley road (162).	Noted.
Arrowe park road, Upton village.  Beechwood estate.  Meols promenade.  Woodchurch estate (168).	Noted.
Hoylake, Municipal Golf course, especially around the area of New Hall Lane.	Noted.

<p>along Trinity Road, Hoylake.</p> <p>around Birkenhead docks.</p> <p>more trees along the Chester road (169).</p>	
<p>Birkenhead Town Centre as part of any redevelopment proposals.</p> <p>Most parks and open spaces throughout the Borough (173).</p>	Noted.
<p>Bromborough Green (opposite the Methodist church) &amp; Bromborough common (opposite the library etc), both Allport lane CH62.</p> <p>Fields at the front of croft retail park, CH62 3QP.</p> <p>Broad grass verges along the B5136 in Rock Ferry, CH42 1LB.</p> <p>Mayer Park, CH63 7RB (174).</p>	Noted.
<p>Ch62 1bz.</p> <p>Ch62 (179).</p>	Noted.
<p>Plymyard Playing Fields.</p> <p>The Chase (Tolerant to wet conditions).</p> <p>Marfords Park (180).</p>	Noted.
<p>Tarporley close.</p> <p>Overton way (183).</p>	Noted.
<p>Take any road or new build across the Wirral - trees only cut down no replacement programme (184).</p>	Noted.
<p>Derby Road Tranmere.</p> <p>Birkenhead all areas.</p> <p>Rock ferry.</p> <p>Mersey tunnel sea front area (186).</p>	Noted.

Mersey Park. Victoria Park. Thurstaston. Birkenhead Park (190).	Noted.
Marine Promenade, New Brighton. The area from Marine Lake to Floral Pavilion is barren and hard since the removal of established, raised, evergreen planters for more parking bays (193).	Noted.
Field off Teehey lane (198).	Noted.
CH43 - along Woodchurch Road (201).	Noted.
Chester Street CH41 5DL. Mill Lane – Wallasey. Argyle Street - CH41 (204).	Noted.
Abbots Grange Estate (Friars Close, Monks Way & Abbots Drive), Bebington, CH63. Bebington Village to the front of Civic Centre, along The Village, CH63. Cross Lane, Bebington (Centre of length of road nr Kirket Lane pathway). Kings Road, Bebington (near Broadway Roundabout) (206).	Noted.
Upton Village. Warwick Park (208).	Noted.
ch62 1db shore bank (212).	Noted.
all local parks. all local woodlands. all coastal areas (where appropriate).	Noted.

all of Wirral not just the high income ones (214).	
Land off Barnston Road, at the edge of Barnston village. (South of Gill's Lane). This land floods regularly and trees would assist in preventing this (217).	Noted.
Elleray park.  Harrison park.  The promenade in new Brighton (218).	Noted.
Along the Upton by pass, the cricket club side.  Manage the copse at junction of Saughall Massie Rd and Upton by pass.  Along the saughall Massie by pass.  The area outside the co op and opposite on saughall Massie Ed (219).	Noted.
Field next to the new Fire Station in Saughall Massie to extend Jenny's Wood.  Site left by demolition of Foxfield school, Moreton.  Any waste ground owned by the Local Authority.  Any brown belt land owned by the Local Authority (221).	Noted.
Central park Wallasey.  The promenade from Seacombe to new Brighton.  Leasowe road next to links view garage.  Just get as many trees in the streets, roads, avenues and cul-de-sacs (222).	Noted.
New Ferry.  Central Birkenhead.	Noted.

North End of Birkenhead.	
All deprived areas of the Wirral (223).	
the whole of the M53 corridor on both sides but particularly on the east, downwind side to control PM 2.5 levels which are dangerous near the M53 and drift all across eastern Wirral.	Noted.
M53 junctions 2,4,5 need green buffers to protect homes and schools. Building on the green belt parcels in location 1 and 2 will expose new and current residents to serious health risks (224).	
Poulton Road Wallasey CH444DB.	Noted.
Gorsey Lane Wallasey.	
Oxton Road Wallasey (225).	
Oxton Park, Wallasey - bounded by Poulton Road, Oxton Road, Broughton Road.	Noted.
Central Park - along Greenheys Road (228).	
Birkenhead centre.	Noted.
CH63.	
CH42 (230).	
Harrison Park Wallasey Village (232).	Noted.
CH61 2XQ (233).	Noted.
The docks and Wirral Waters.	Noted.
Rock Ferry.	
New Ferry.	
In areas where there are large housing developments (235).	
Wherever possible [hard call] busy traffic routes need the most trees.	Noted.
Built up areas need increased planting (236).	

Hoylake...around the municipal golf course.  North of Greasby, Pump lane.  Areas of archaeological importance, Greenhouse Farm Greasby, Arrowe Road.  Storeton Lane, Manor Farm, we need a Wirral Forest (239). Green Belt (240).	Noted.
The dips by New Brighton for shelter from the sun in years to come (244).	Noted.

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**Wirral Tree Wardens are a voluntary group dedicated to planting and care of trees across Wirral. Please tick below if you would like to join this group.**

Answered yes: 74. Skipped: 170.

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### **Additional responses submitted via email**

Number of respondents: 8

Comments	
<p>My particular concern is that as it stands the strategy deals with conservation areas under the general heading of TPOs and yet they really need a section for themselves, not least to emphasise the existing rules regarding any tree within a Conservation Area.</p> <p>The CA with which I have most to do - West Kirby Old Village CA - has extensive areas within the CA already covered by a TPO but the way in which trees and woodland contributes to the special character of this or any other CA needs highlighting.</p>	<p>Comment:</p> <p>Tree Protection Orders (TPO) are applied to protect selected trees and woodlands that bring significant amenity benefit to the local area such that their removal would have a significant negative impact on the local environment and its enjoyment by the public. This protection is particularly important where trees are under threat. All types of tree (but not bushes or shrubs) can be protected, and a TPO can protect anything from a single tree to all trees within a defined area or woodland. Under the Town &amp; Country Planning Act 1990 and Town and Country Planning (Tree</p>

Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012, local authorities have a duty to apply TPOs to any trees or woodlands in need of protection. Before authorities make or confirm an order, however, they need to ensure that they are able to demonstrate that protection would bring a reasonable degree of public benefit in the present or future, thereby evidencing that it is expedient to serve a TPO.

Conservation areas (CA) refer to areas with significant architectural or historic interest which is considered worthy of preservation and/or enhancement. CAs mandate a precautionary approach to the loss or alteration of buildings and/or trees, and provide provisional legal protection for all trees (with a stem diameter of more than 75 mm, when measured at 1.5 metres height above ground level) within the defined area. CAs achieve this by requiring anyone proposing to cut down or carry out work on a tree within the CA to issue a 'section 211 notice' at least six weeks' prior to commencing, except for the following activities: (i) removal of dead trees; (ii) the prevention or abatement of (legal) nuisance; and, (iii) the implementation of planning permission. This six-week notice period enables the relevant local authority to make an assessment and apply a TPO, if necessary. In effect, CAs provide provisional protection for all trees (with a stem diameter of more than 75 mm, when measured at 1.5 metres height above ground level) within the defined area which are not covered by a TPO and reserve the right for local authorities to apply TPO to any trees under threat within a CA. Importantly, if a tree or group of trees within a CA is already protected by a TPO, normal TPO procedures apply, *i.e.*, a 'section 211 notice' cannot be used to attain consent to perform work on TPO protected trees.

Whilst TPOs provide definitive protection for trees, then, CAs provide the same level of protection for all trees (with a stem diameter of more than 75 mm, when measured at 1.5 metres height above ground level) within the CA on a provisional basis, and necessitate a notice period sufficient to allow local authorities to apply TPO, if necessary. Unless trees within a CA are under immediate threat, then, blanket applications of TPOs are

	<p>unnecessary and – rather than highlighting the importance particular trees within a CA – would dilute the exceptional status that TPOs are designed to recognise. Indeed, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) explicitly advises against using TPOs to protect entire areas, except in the event of an emergency: area protection under a TPO ‘is intended for short term protection in an emergency and may not be capable of providing appropriate long-term protection. Authorities are advised to only use this category as a temporary measure until they can fully assess and reclassify the trees in the area’ (paragraph 029 (reference ID:36-029-20140306)). Moreover, before applying a TPO, local authorities need to be able to demonstrate that doing so that a TPO would bring a reasonable degree of public benefit in the present or future, thereby evidencing that it is expedient to serve a TPO. In cases where trees are already protected under CAs and are under no immediate threat, Wirral Council would be unable to demonstrate that working on CA-covered trees would pose a significant threat to the amenity of the area, and, as such, would be unable to demonstrate the expediency of a TPO. Applying TPOs under these circumstances could be viewed as overreach and expose Wirral Council to legal challenges through the courts.</p> <p>Nonetheless, Wirral Council is committed to vigorously enforcing all infringements of TPO’s and Conservation Area protections, and, as part of the Tree Strategy, will perform a comprehensive review of existing TPOs and CAs to reassess historical orders and potentially implement new TPOs deemed necessary to protect trees which are not already covered under CAs.</p> <p>Action: Minor changes have been made to the strategy to highlight the importance of conservation areas.</p>
<p>Wearing my Conservation Areas Wirral hat we have looked at the Council's Tree Policy on which individual Conservation Areas may have commented separately on the 'Have Your Say' page.</p>	<p>Comment: As above.</p>



<p>However we most concerned that there is no reference to Conservation Areas in the strategy. We would like to see a blanket or area TPO on those Conservation Areas where trees are particularly important. We have therefore suggested a phased application of an area or blanket TPO for the Conservation Areas of Mountwood, Oxton, Eastham and Lower Heswall.</p>	<p>Action: Several additional references to conservation areas have been added to the strategy to highlight the importance of conservation areas.</p>
<p>I think it is essential that the Tree Strategy deals with Conservation Areas, which seem to have been omitted from the Draft document.</p>	<p>Comment: Minor changes have been made to the strategy to highlight the importance of conservation areas.</p>
<p>We believe that the main focus of any tree strategy, wherever it is to be applied, must be the preservation and the protection of existing trees, rather than the current and historical focus, which is on the continued and relentless removal of tree cover and habitat (itself a primary cause of climate breakdown, flooding in particular). Continued intervention in the growth patterns of trees, by felling, de-limbing, canopy removal, understorey removal etc. is a recipe for disaster- since it takes decades for a tree to mature; since every loss is a loss of the tree's capacities and the enormous array of benefits it would have provided going forward and with every second of its entire life; since trees cannot accommodate to sudden losses of their parts, and cannot be restored or remediated, unlike buildings, land or water bodies.</p> <p>The deadly effects of tree loss are of air pollution, land slippage, disrupted and chaotic weather and climate patterns such as extreme heat, drought, flooding/inundation and hurricane storms, not to mention large-scale habitat and species loss.</p> <p>Tree felling and dismemberment, as you will know, is a market-driven activity ( turbo-charged by the risk economy) to which the law of diminishing returns must be applied, and with stark consequences. But it's worse than this. The economic, social and environmental deficits caused by removing one tree, let alone the hundreds that have been commissioned by our LA, are insupportable, for the reasons outlined above and in the attached, which I strongly urge you to give your full consideration.</p> <p>To recognise this is not to fail to endorse fully a large-scale planting programme across the Borough, with particular emphasis on urban Wirral and the built environment; however, a 1% increase year on year, as</p>	<p>Comment: Preservation, protection and expansion of Wirral's tree stocks is at the heart of the Tree Strategy. In recent times, it has been necessary to fell over 2000 trees across the Borough. More precisely, as of 01/05/2020, 2,225 trees have been felled. Approximately half of these have been in parks and countryside sites, and the other half near highways. In all these cases, felling was essential due to death, disease, or other forms of damaging which present a danger to the public. The need for such extensive action was the result of an insufficient inspection and management regime over the past several decades. Now that we have largely dealt with the all the trees across the Borough requiring attention, these number will dramatically decrease, and our attention and resources will be redirected into inspection and management for the purposes of preservation and protection.</p> <p>Felling trees brings no financial benefit to Wirral Council and we are making significant investments in our tree management provision to ensure that our future tree stocks will be properly managed and preserved.</p> <p>The 10% target specified in the draft strategy was unclear. Whilst most people interpreted this to mean a 10% increase on our current tree stocks, the intention was to increase woodland across the Borough <i>from 4.8% to 10%, i.e., a doubling of woodland across the Borough within 10 years.</i> Given the importance of urban trees, we have reviewed this target and replaced it the more general target to increase canopy cover from an 13% to 25%, <i>i.e., almost a doubling of tree over across the Borough.</i> Importantly, though, it will take decades for the 210,000 we will plant over the next 10 years to mature. In effect, then, the</p>

<p>suggested by Wirral Tree Initiative's Strategy , is a poorly considered and hastily constructed 'management' approach- suggesting merely a 10% increase in tree cover by the end of the ten year period. The suggested target rate would fall far too short of what is needed at the very minimum and belie the potential there is across the whole of the Wirral-no less within our urban estates and transport networks (and allowing for the maturation period, which can be over several decades) In any case, It would not represent any real terms increase at all, were the suggested felling schedules to be carried out in addition to the thousands that have been removed and damaged by private and public landowners on the Wirral (especially since those that have been felled/scheduled for removal are mature and mainly large specimens.). So a far higher percentage of added trees will be required. Fast growing native species such as willow, birch, lime will be preferred.</p>	<p>target it to plant enough trees across the Borough to double canopy cover once those trees have fully matured.</p>
<p>I'm not going to suggest specific amendments, but a few thoughts that I had were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could 'Our Vision' be the first thing that confronted the reader, and then subsequent text would explain how and why this would be delivered?</li> <li>• Should a university be included in the Groups – either Liverpool John Moores or Chester? They can provide another dimension to the work, but I might be a tad biased here of course.</li> <li>• You mention 'Right Tree in the Right Place', which is quite right. Sometimes I think 'For the Right Reasons' can be added, now that urban trees at last are no seen as a cosmetic, but as a metaphysic – a first principle.</li> <li>• You rightly speak of Green and Blue Infrastructure. The UN's FAO have now declared that they view green, blue and grey infrastructures as Critical Infrastructure, as all three have equal status and you now cannot deliver any one of them without considering the other two.</li> <li>• And lastly, you mention 'best practice', which is quite right of course, except that I wonder if we're looking forward, as strategies such of this are, maybe we should be considering 'next practice'? Best practice was not wrong, but it has been done. Should we be moving on, and if so, in which direction?</li> </ul>	<p>Comments: 'Our Vision' has been moved so that it is the first section after the executive summary.</p>
<p>My brief summary of comments below.</p>	<p>Comments: Following revisions, the Tree Strategy has been shortened, as has the Executive Summary. Many of the technical</p>

<p>1. Give serious consideration to making the final document length much shorter. A similar length to your Executive Summary might be better. That summary also needs to be shorter and punchier - less than one page perhaps. A strategy needs to make a difference. Improved clarity aids understanding, presents a clear road map, helps decision makers choose courses of action – and the impact becomes much greater. If there’s anything complex and challenging – signpost elsewhere or make it an appendix.</p> <p>2. You could achieve the shortening by having separate Policies or Action Plans for; Tree Management; Tree Risk Assessment and Management; Tree Protection; Ash Dieback. I don’t think they need to part of the Strategy. Just signpost readers to these separate documents if you need to refer to them.</p> <p>3. For each of the five outcomes the Executive Summary has a bullet list under the heading ‘What we need to make this happen’. These appear to be your actions. I would make an Action Plan, as an appendix to the Strategy, where you can add the extra detail to each action - methods, timescales, responsibility, success criteria, resources, etc.</p> <p>4. The following three objectives seem very similar. I would combine c with a, and include b in the Tree Management Policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. for increasing tree cover by 10%</li> <li>b. resilience to climate change</li> <li>c. boosting ecosystem services</li> </ul> <p>5. The first objective - to manage the risk posed by Council trees - doesn’t appear needed in light Mac’s comment about tree risk at Wirral Council. It also seems redundant if you have a separate policy and procedure for Tree Risk Assessment and Management.</p> <p>6. Once your consultation is over, and outcomes are agreed, I would include a short paragraph outlining the stakeholders unity of purpose to deliver these - assuming there will be unity!</p>	<p>sections mentioned have been provided as appendices. Following the approval of the Tree Strategy, Wirral Council will then formulate a series of action plans which will implement the strategy over the next decade.</p>
<p>I’m just a bit concerned that the Wirral Tree Strategy consultation document is more of a risk management strategy and doesn’t take into account the statutory management required at SSSIs and the desire at other sites to manage other habitat types. I think that the extracts below taken from the consultation document should be reworded and put into the context of trees that are unsafe and part of risk management (not habitat management).</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No one wants to see trees being felled</li> <li>• If we are forced to fell any of our trees</li> <li>• Taking the decision to remove or cutback a tree is always the absolute last resort and one we only take when there is no other option. It's something we will only ever do when forced to, in order to keep residents and visitors safe</li> <li>• Trees are only ever felled when they are dangerous and there is a risk of people being injured</li> </ul> <p>All those statements could be used against WBC and our statutory requirement regarding protected sites but also at sites like North Wirral Coastal Park where the rangers and friends group are restoring the dune habitat, or here at Thurstaston where the CX and visiting Green Flag judges have suggested removal of trees around the Visitor Centre so that it can be seen by visitors and which is an action for 2019/20 in the park's management plan and which we are currently undertaking.</p>	
<p>Just a few points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should we have departments of the Council listed as partners? They are the council, therefore in this section, I would have expected to only see the external partner's to the council listed here? If we are describing the departments that work together in implementing this strategy, there would be more than P&amp;C and Highways e.g. assets, health and safety, etc.</li> <li>• Do we have any links with local colleges? What about Muse Developments as a partner (Wirral Growth Company)? Later in the document we refer to LJMU?</li> <li>• 2nd paragraph on page 5 don't think we need the word 'via'?</li> <li>• Page 6 – should we remove 'for consistency the same arboriculturist has surveyed all sites' we cannot guarantee this over the 10 year strategy?</li> <li>• Page 6 – do we need to highlight in this document about the extended highways contract?</li> </ul>	<p>Comment: All references to internal Council departments have been removed from the section listing external partners.</p>

- Page 6 – how will we communicate proposed work to stakeholders going forward? Are we doing this now? Who would be the stakeholders we would consult for example? Just to ensure this is achievable and realistic before we set it out here, who would lead on this?

- Page 20 – final paragraph needs full stop removing in first sentence.