

Geoff Raw
Chief Executive Office
Brighton and Hove City Council
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove,
BN3 3BQ

10.06.2020

Letter to Environment Transport and Sustainability Committee

Dear Geoff,

I am submitting the following letter under Council Procedure Rule 23.3 to be included on the agenda for the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee meeting of 23rd June 2020.

I am writing regarding the replacement of street trees on Springfield Road. As a ward Councillor for Preston Park Ward and a Member of the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee, I urge you to re-prioritise the replacement of street trees to this road, where the local community have been trying to support the efforts of the council to achieve this.

The residents of Springfield Road not only cherish the traditional tree lined roads in the community, but also recognise how they are vital in our city's pledge to combat the climate emergency that will affect us all. Tree planting must be part of the solution during our 10-year plan to become carbon-neutral by 2030.

The key ask of my residents is for the council to replace the six dead or endangered trees identified by the council's arboriculturalists on Springfield Road. It is my understanding that members of the arboriculture team visited Springfield Road to identify sites for the new trees, so the residents have had the expectation that these trees would be planted. Furthermore, the three Councillors contributed some of their ward budgets to this tree fund, and the fact that this was approved indicates that this money was intended to be spent.

Springfield Road has, for at least a century, been lined with horse chestnut trees, some of which have succumbed to disease and old age. In 2017 residents of Springfield Road raised £2,300 to replace felled and dying trees but have not seen the fruits of their fundraising efforts. It seems that the funds remain in limbo. Residents and particularly donors feel let down that years after the fundraising the Council has not fulfilled the planting of these six trees that the residents have contributed money towards.

The trees in the Preston Park community contribute to the physical and mental health of local residents, mitigate atmospheric pollution and play an essential role in supporting wildlife: it is vital that the council prioritise tree planting.

In this year's budget the Green Group were successful in securing £24k for new tree planting across the city. Considering this, and the increased capacity that this money should bring to the Arboricultural team as well as the new Tree Strategy, I would be grateful if you could update myself and the residents about the money they raised and ask officers to plant these new trees in Springfield Roads as a matter of priority.

Best wishes,

Cllr. Amy Heley

Supported by Cllr Hugh-Jones and Cllr Littman