

Trees in Cambridge: Issues and Options



**A report on consultation for Cambridge City Council
by Phil Back Associates Ltd**

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Executive Summary

1. The survey was run online in June and July 2015, and attracted 270 responses, of which 28 were responses on behalf of groups. The vast majority of responses are from local residents, but group responses have been analysed separately to ensure that their representative role is recognised. One in three respondents say they have an interest in the local environment. Responses come from all over Cambridge, but there are few from outside the city boundary.
2. Two thirds of people agree with this draft Vision Statement:

'To manage our city's trees so as to maximise the benefits they offer us, whilst ensuring that the trees we leave for future generations, and the character they bring to our city, are at least as good as those we have inherited.'
3. Our analysis of the comments of those wanting to change the vision suggest that it could be made more ambitious ('better' rather than 'at least as good as') and could recognise the benefits offered to non-humans as well.
4. Half of all respondents believe the present balance of the Council's workload is correct; a majority of those who want to change it (22%) want to see more time and resource allocated to asset management of the Council's own trees.
5. There is strong support for all three options on promoting tree coverage, particularly for stricter requirements in new housing areas and for more trees to be planted on Council land. There is also encouragement for the Council to look at potential partnerships with key voluntary bodies, and with community groups, to achieve more in this area.
6. Respondents largely recognise the difficulties of avenue trees, and their preference is to replace failed trees with new planting, or to plant new avenues alongside existing ones where space allows. A quarter of people want to see new avenues planted elsewhere.
7. There is strong support for a policy of 'the right tree in the right place', rather than looking specifically at mature replacement trees or like-for-like replacement.

8. On privately owned trees, tree planting schemes are widely supported and attention is drawn to the potential for community engagement in this; there is also strong support for advice and guidance to private owners both in the selection of species and in care and maintenance of private trees. Free trees are also supported, but it is pointed out that these might be available elsewhere, or through sponsorship, rather than requiring Council resource. Support for enforcement rather than persuasion is less strong, but still supported.
9. The imposition and enforcement of tree requirements for developers receives almost universal support. There is also strong support for planting appropriate trees on streets, recognising the need for drought and pollution resistance and the need to ensure growth does not compromise other street users.
10. Although there are people who believe trees, or buildings, should always be given precedence when they conflict, they are a minority; most (79%) say that options for retention should be given full consideration before trees are removed.
11. There is substantial interest in activities that might promote engagement and involvement. The most popular suggestions are for voluntary tree planting schemes, voluntary tree wardens, and information and guidance for homeowners; there is also support for the provision of explanatory information when tree work is being carried out. Tree planting schemes and tree wardens are seen as the ideas most likely to have high impact.
12. The survey responses demonstrate strong views on trees, with several respondents expressing concerns, often at length and in forcible language, about specific situations that they have been disappointed or disturbed by. Trees have an important status in the city and are seen as an essential ingredient of the city's character; they are widely viewed as important, for a variety of reasons, and to be prioritised accordingly in resource allocation.

1 Objectives and methodology

Trees are widely, and increasingly, recognised as an important contributor to people's wellbeing and to the liveability of places, both in rural and urban contexts. Successive Governments have emphasised the importance of managing and enhancing the national tree stock, to maximise these benefits and to ensure their continuance in the face of the threats that face trees now and in the coming years.

Cambridge City Council recognises the value of trees, both intrinsically and as part of the aesthetic appeal of the city to residents and visitors. The Council is working towards the development of a tree strategy, to help with management of this significant asset, and has run a programme of consultation to help it identify the challenges it faces as regards tree management, and also the views of residents on some of these difficult issues. This process started in 2011 when a series of workshops was held with residents and stakeholders, and which identified several key issues relating to trees which a strategy would need to confront and address.

One outcome of this work was the drafting of a consultation paper 'Why Trees Matter', setting out some dimensions of national policy on trees and also rehearsing the wide range of benefits that accrue from the presence of trees in a locality. The Council decided it wished to place these issues in front of people, this time with specific questions as to how best to manage the issues being raised, and setting out the options in this respect which the Council's internal discussions had generated. We were asked to develop a questionnaire accordingly.

The questionnaire was drafted and agreed with the Council, after discussion with elected members with relevant portfolio accountabilities. This questionnaire was made available online through the Council website (though it was hosted elsewhere, to protect the anonymity of respondents), and was also produced in paper form for the benefit of those who prefer this basis for participation. The availability of the survey was advertised widely through press releases, and was also announced through the Council's established process of notification of consultations to interested bodies.

The survey opened in June 2015 and was closed in late July, by which time **a total of 270 responses** had been received. Almost all of these were completed online. In line with our normal practice for online surveys, the response has been checked for evidence of gerrymandering; no significant issues in this regard have been found. Three responses have been removed as they were clearly duplicates of other, retained responses.

Twenty-eight responses, around 10% of the total, are from individuals responding on behalf of an organisation or group; most of these groups are identified, but not all are. Naturally, we assume that groups speak on behalf of a number of individuals, but since we cannot realistically assign a weight to each group, we treat each response on its own merits, and look more closely at the responses from groups specifically to see whether, and to what extent, they differ from those of individual respondents. In passing, we note that some groups have more than one response ostensibly on their behalf; and that these respondents do not always concur.

A copy of the questionnaire used in the survey is included as an appendix to the report. It should be noted that not everyone answered every question; in some questions, people were able to choose more than one option and answers do not total 100% in such instances. For each tabulation, the total number of individual responses is given.

2 Response breakdown

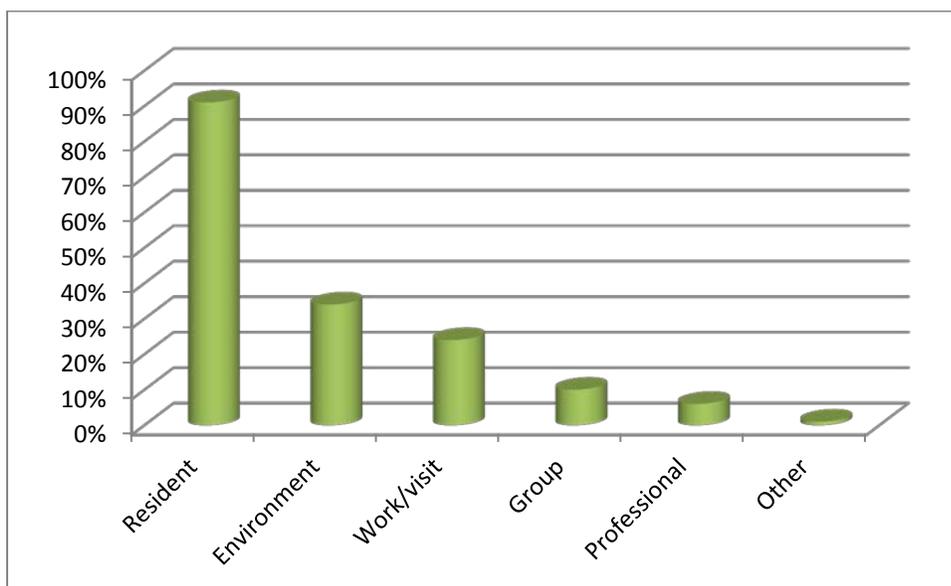
2.1 Classification of respondents

This table shows how respondents describe themselves in their submissions.

Table 1: Respondent classification

Type of respondent	Proportion of respondents
Local resident	91%
Someone with an interest in the local environment	34%
Someone who works in, or visits, Cambridge	24%
A representative of a group or organisation	10%
An environment or tree professional	6%
In some other capacity	1%
<i>N (=100%)</i>	<i>270</i>

Chart 1: Respondent classification



People were allowed to describe themselves in multiple capacities, so the results do not add up to 100%.

Nine out of ten respondents live locally to Cambridge, though clearly many of those who live in the city also describe themselves in other ways. A quarter say they work or visit Cambridge, but the proportion who live outside the city is small and suggests that most respondents are either local residents or people who work in Cambridge.

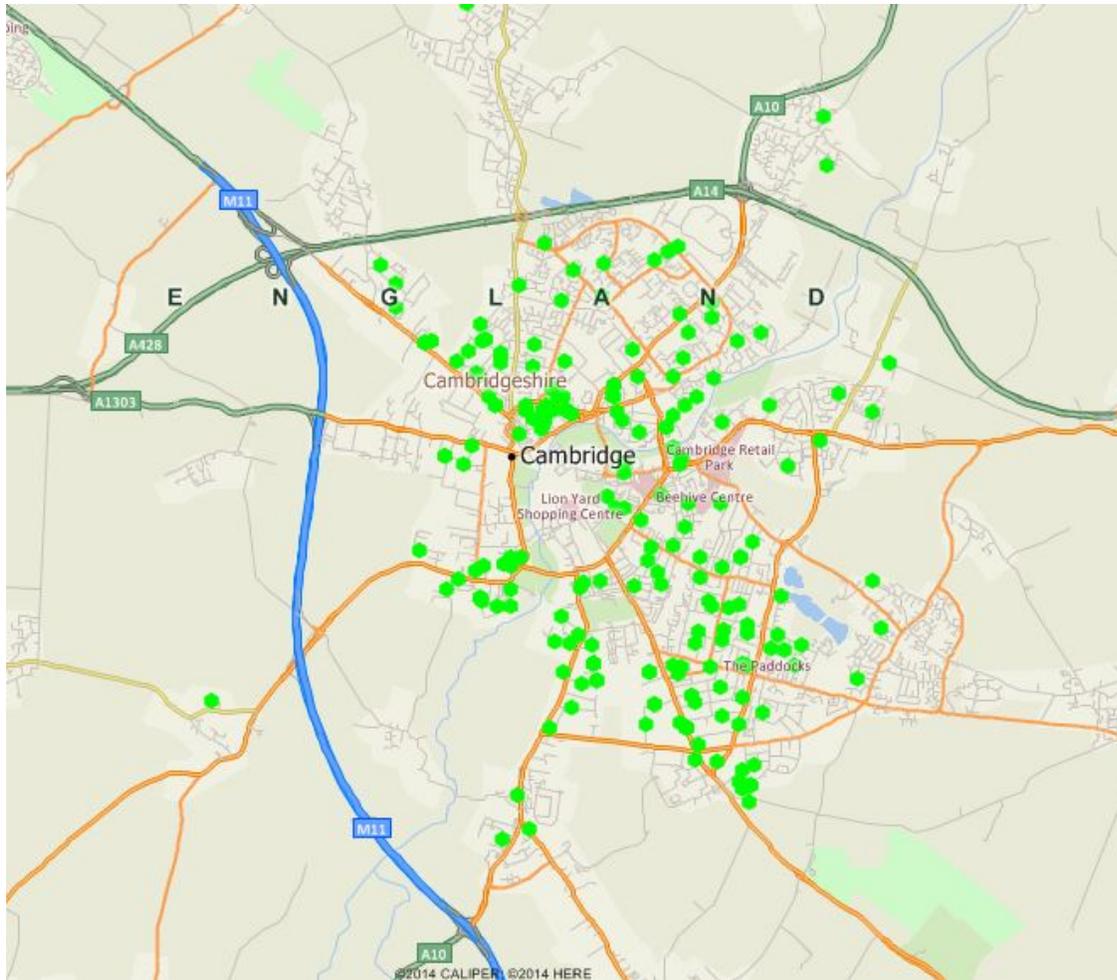
One in three respondents says they take an interest in the local environment, though this is most often amateur rather than professional; just 6% of respondents works in a professional capacity in this field.

A total of 23 groups and organisations have contributed to the survey through representatives, with a small number of organisations represented by more than one response on their behalf, making 28 such responses in total. Respondent groups include local residents' groups, groups with interests in environment and conservation matters, and groups with more general voluntary interests from across Cambridge.

2.2 Geography of response

People were asked to provide postcodes to allow us to locate their response geographically, and this map shows the geographical distribution of respondents.

Map 1: Geography of response



The map indicates a spread of response across the city, but with particular emphasis on suburban areas. Areas such as Romsey, which have little tree cover outside formal open spaces, are not well represented, but there is a good response from the southern side of the city and to a lesser extent from the northern suburbs; the area north of Chesterton Road is also well represented.

A small number of respondents live outside Cambridge. These include people from the commutable areas of Huntingdon and St Neots, but also a handful from further afield. By far the predominant perspective in this data set, though, is that of local residents.

3 Issues and Options

3.1 Vision Statement

The survey sought people's views on a vision to underlie the Council's tree strategy, and to facilitate responses a draft statement, agreed internally, was presented as a possible basis for a Vision Statement. Respondents were asked to indicate whether or not they agreed with this statement, and, where they wished to change it, what changes they would want to make to it.

The draft statement offered for comment was:

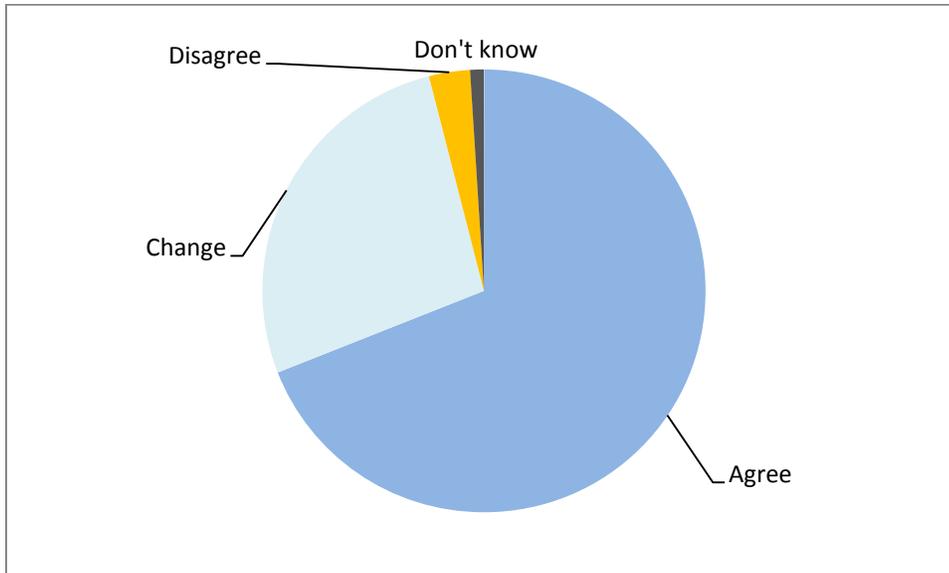
'To manage our city's trees so as to maximise the benefits they offer us, whilst ensuring that the trees we leave for future generations, and the character they bring to our city, are at least as good as those we have inherited.'

Reactions to this suggestion are given in this table:

Table 2: Perceptions of the Draft Vision Statement

Perception	Proportion of respondents
I agree with this vision	69%
I like this vision but want to change it a little	27%
I don't agree with this vision and want to change it a lot	3%
Don't know	1%
<i>N (=100%)</i>	<i>264</i>

Chart 2: Perceptions of the Draft Vision Statement



Over two-thirds of respondents say they are content with the draft vision put forward, and a quarter want only minor changes, so that almost all respondents express at least partial satisfaction with the suggested wording. A small number of people would want to rewrite the statement in a different form, but the general consensus towards the suggested vision is positive.

This is even more true of the group responses; again, two-thirds of the groups express agreement with the vision, and the remaining 36% say they like the vision but want to change it a little. No group expresses outright disagreement with the vision statement.

Those who expressed reservations about the draft statement were invited to say what they would like to change. Their responses can be grouped around a number of themes.

The most commonly expressed concern is the idea that the legacy of the Council's work should be 'at least as good' as their inheritance. Several people feel this is **insufficiently ambitious**, and a number of people would be happier if the vision aimed to improve the city's tree stock, rather than simply maintain it. The nature of these improvements is less clear: some people talk in terms of quantitative measures, and increased tree numbers; others in terms of maintaining or increasing the tree cover percentage in the face of

development; while others see dangers in numbers, and want guarantees of quality as well as, or instead of, quantity, especially as regards mature or landmark trees. There are also doubts about the appropriateness of trees, which would also argue against a simple ‘numbers game’; people see a need to ensure that trees are planted with their future in mind, noting the effects of climate change and other challenges to tree health.

The other widely-voiced comment on the vision is that it is **too human-focussed**, and insufficiently responsive to the benefits trees bring to other species, and to the environment more generally. These respondents want to see a vision statement that recognises a responsibility extending beyond human benefit and which is more holistic in its purpose.

Specific **words in the vision** are challenged, particularly the word ‘manage’ which is too functional for some respondents; a word like ‘cherish’ would be preferred. The word ‘maximise’ also carries undertones of exploitation which grate on some sensitivities. The vision is **challenged more generally** for being too vague, for being ‘just words’, and for being unnecessary.

Specific issues raised at this point include the threat to property caused by trees, the need to protect mature specimens, and the need to integrate trees more fully into other green infrastructure planning. There are also suggestions that the Council has no role outside publicly-owned trees and should not presume to tell private owners how to manage their property. Some of the concerns raised here are explored more fully later in the survey.

Several alternative wordings are suggested. However, noting that the present wording has secured a good deal of support, we suggest that any modifications should be minor. We warm to the idea of amendment to extend the desired benefit beyond humankind, and could envisage a change in this respect; we are less sure about changing the word ‘manage’ as this seems to take the authority beyond its funded responsibilities.

3.2 Balance of work

The survey summarised the Council's work across these broad areas:

- as community leader, engaging with partners and the wider public and promoting tree awareness and good management practice;
- as a service provider, improving our statutory functions such as tree protection and enforcement;

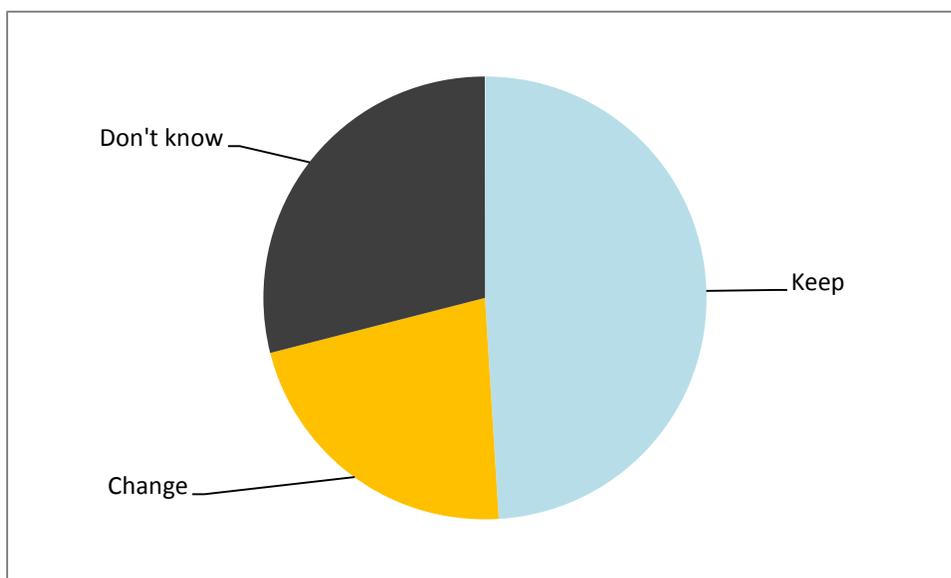
- as an advisor, providing advice and guidance and responding to enquiries from the public and from other bodies;
- as an asset manager, concentrating on our own tree stock and ensuring that our own trees are properly managed.
- as a contractor, as in looking after street trees on behalf of the County Council.

Respondents were asked whether they feel that the workload is correctly balanced across these themes, with these results:

Table 3: Balance of work

Balance of work	Proportion of respondents
Keep the present balance of work	49%
Change the present balance of work	22%
Don't know	29%
<i>N (=100%)</i>	233

Chart 3: Balance of work



Around half of all respondents feel the present balance of work across these different themes is right; one in five respondents would want to change the balance. A high

proportion, well over a quarter of those responding, are unable to guide the Council on this issue. If don't knows are discounted, then two thirds (69%) of those expressing a view say they are content with the present balance of work.

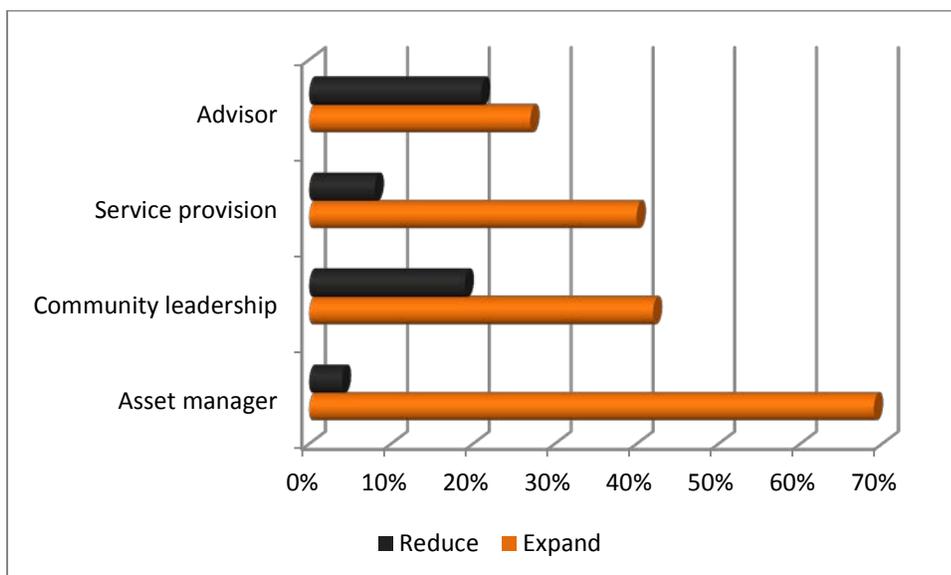
Among the groups participating in the survey, there are fewer don't knows (12%), and a slightly higher proportion (54%) who would keep the present balance, with one in three (34%) who want to change the distribution of workload. If don't knows are discounted, this generates a proportion in favour of the status quo of 61%, with 39% seeking change, and suggests that, although groups tend towards a similar overall result, they are a little less happy with the balance of work than respondents more generally.

Those who want to see change were asked which of the aspects of the Council's work they would want to see expand or reduce (the contract work was not offered for change, as this is not easily changed). The results of this are shown here (though it should be borne in mind that the numbers involved are relatively small):

Table 4: Changes in the balance of work

Area of work	Proportion of respondents seeking change	
	Expand	Reduce
Asset manager	69%	4%
Community leadership	42%	19%
Service provision	40%	8%
Advisor	27%	21%
<i>N (=100%)</i>	52	

Chart 4: Changes in the balance of work



The tendency among those seeking a change in workload balance is for the Council to increase its level of activity in all four areas; the proportions seeking an expansion in each area all exceed the proportions seeking a reduction. The greatest pressure for change arises in respect of the Council's role in asset management, where two-thirds of those seeking change want to see the Council being more active; this is where the Council looks after its own tree stock. Two in five of those seeking change want the Council to be more vigorous in community leadership on this issue, and a similar proportion are looking for a strengthening of the Council's delivery of statutory functions and enforcement.

The responses of groups to this question are a little different. Among groups there is a desire to see a stronger role as service provider, delivering the statutory functions and enforcement, alongside an expectation that the Council will manage its own tree stock effectively. In contrast, groups tend to look for a reduced level of emphasis on the advisor element of the role.

A large number of comments are made in response to this question, some of them quite lengthy in nature. Many are observations about Council policy and priorities, rather than the balance of workload between different roles, but they nevertheless reveal significant concerns and are discussed below.

Several comments relate to the Council's **enforcement role**, and reflect a desire in some quarters to see tighter control over the loss of trees, especially those that are privately owned. Some people feel the Council is less rigorous than it could be in protecting trees, and perhaps too willing to yield to insurers' requirements in respect of threatened structures. Several comments, not all about the same location, suggest that the Council is **too ready to sacrifice trees** at the behest of insurers, and that its process in this respect is insufficiently transparent and thus inherently dubious.

There is a view that the asset management role can be extended to include specific recognition of the need to protect **more mature trees** from felling. There is a widespread concern that mature trees deserve more careful consideration than they are seen to receive at present, and that the Council needs to be stronger in their defence.

Some respondents recognise that **austerity** creates pressures on the Council's workload, and see the solution in terms of cutting back on discretionary services and ensuring that statutory functions are carried out diligently. Others see a solution in volunteer development to assist with some functions and thus to allow all aspects of the Council's work to continue, whilst some reject austerity as a valid approach.

There is also a view that **actions**, as exemplified by the leadership and service provider roles, go further in enhancing the city's tree stock than advice and guidance do. But there is also a recognition in some quarters that the Council is not necessarily the only active player in this and that other bodies, including communities themselves, can take a more active role.

Questions are raised about the **contractual relationship** with the County Council; one respondent has sought to see a copy of the contract under FOI but has been unable to obtain one. There is a view that this relationship can be improved for the benefit of city trees, can be made more specific in defining what work is done, and can be used to 'represent' the city's trees against threats from highways interests. There is also a view that the relationship represented in the contract can be utilised to enable a wider dialogue with the county over wider tree management issues.

There are many comments critiquing the Council's **policy and priorities** when it comes to tree management. Examples are cited of poor tree management, and inadequate care for new planting, leading to loss of trees and resources; there are also concerns about the need for stronger partnership between different bodies with interests in trees to ensure better and more efficient co-ordination of effort. Some people clearly feel that the Council

is not sufficiently vigorous in promoting tree retention, and that tree owners' fears over legal action may lead them to remove trees unnecessarily. Respondents urge better forward planning, so that crises of age in trees are better anticipated. Alongside the wide range of comments urging better protection, though, there are several from property owners and occupiers concerned at the threat trees pose to their property and/or their well-being, and also observations about the threat trees pose to safety when they obscure road views. There are also aspirations that regulation over privately-owned trees might be relaxed.

Several respondents urge policies that promote the **planting of more trees**. The quality of replacement trees is also raised, and the need to ensure that these are appropriate in size, species and quality, and given the necessary care and attention to ensure they thrive.

Several responses mention **specific locations** where tree management has been controversial or problematic.

Overall, the comments in this section tend to demonstrate the range and strength of feeling on trees in the city, and the overall policy of the authority, rather than the balance of workload. This in itself is an important dimension of the consultation. One of the disadvantages of an online survey is that people cannot see what questions lie ahead, and therefore feel motivated to air their concerns while there is an opportunity to do so.

3.3 Tree coverage

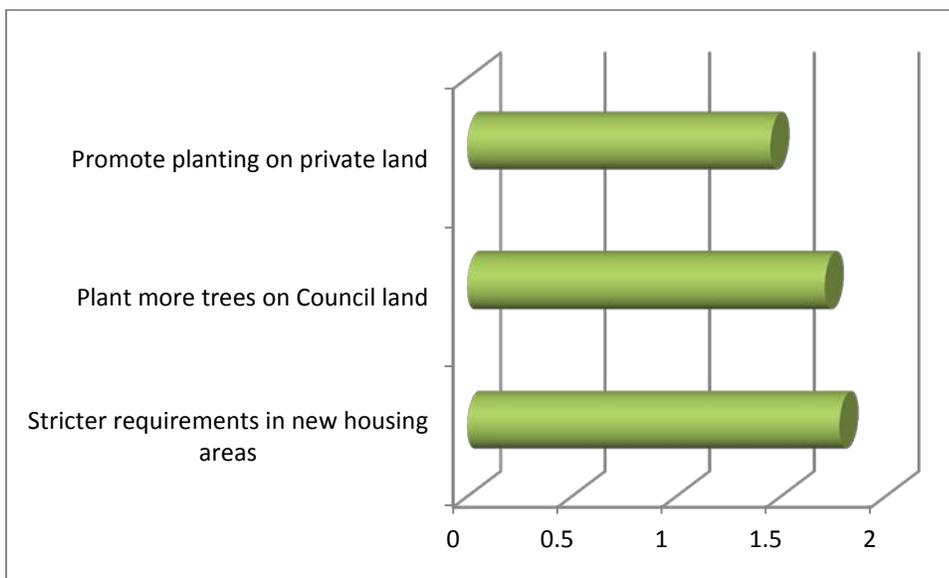
The survey explained that some areas of the city have better tree coverage than others, and asked for opinions on proposals to promote tree planting and tree retention in areas of more limited coverage. The results have been converted into mean scores and are shown here:¹

¹ The mean score is calculated by assigning a score value to each response. In this instance a score of +2 is assigned to each 'strongly support' response, with +1 for a 'support with reservations' response. Responses of 'Not sure' and 'don't support' are assigned scores of -1 and -2 respectively, while 'neutral' is scored at zero. Don't knows are excluded from the calculation. The resulting score indicates both the direction (positive or negative) or perspectives on each issue, and also the strength of feeling with a score range of +2 to -2.

Table 5: Promoting tree coverage

Area of work	Mean score
Stricter requirements in new housing areas	1.78
Plant more trees on Council land	1.71
Promote planting on private land	1.45
<i>N (=100%)</i>	<i>Ranges from 231 to 236</i>

Chart 5: Promoting tree coverage



All three suggested options receive strong backing. The most popular measure, supported strongly by 84% of respondents overall, is for stricter requirements to be placed on new housing developments, but there is a similar, only slightly lower level of support for the Council to use its own land more for tree planting. Views on the potential for private land are a little more circumspect, but still attract strong levels of support. On all three suggestions, the numbers of people opposing the idea is small, but there are significant minorities with reservations as regards both Council and private land being used for tree planting - around one in five respondents in each instance. These reservations are greatly reduced in respect of new housing areas, however.

The views of groups on these issues are very similar to the overall picture, with all three options receiving strong support, and especially the need for stricter tree requirements in new housing areas.

Respondents were also asked to suggest other approaches that might improve tree coverage in areas with limited tree numbers. Several common themes emerge in their suggestions, with a major one focussing on the **requirements placed on developers**, to protect existing mature trees in development areas, and to require them to plant adequate numbers and quality of trees and to take appropriate measures for their survival. There are also several comments relating to the need to **replace trees** that are removed, and to ensure adequate care and attention for the replacement trees; some respondents are concerned about the viability of some replacement trees, and the waste this represents, and urge **stronger maintenance** regimes for new planting.

Several respondents suggest the use of different or **more exciting species** of tree, and in particular encourage the Council to look at planting trees with edible fruit and nuts, to supplement local diets and make the city more edible.

Several respondents suggest that the **Council does not need to do this on its own**. Partners are available in the voluntary sector, and there is a widespread view that communities, and community groups, would be willing to support planting activities if these were given the necessary support, including free trees. Schools, youth groups and other local organisations are all seen as having potential to play a part, and local businesses could be encouraged to sponsor trees, or even to offer workplace workforces to help with the more challenging work. Trees to commemorate loved ones may also offer possibilities.

Several respondents mention **specific locations** where they think more trees would be beneficial. Some also suggest making more use of **trees for segregation** on streets, for example to define parking areas, and there is also a view that firmer policies on hard-surfacing of gardens would also help. However, others counsel against the choice of species that aggravate residents, either by root spread or by shedding leaves and sap on cars and footways.

Some people would like to see more **planting on Council land** (such as parks and commons) but others argue that grassland and open space are also important. Communication, promotion and information are all seen as potentially helpful.

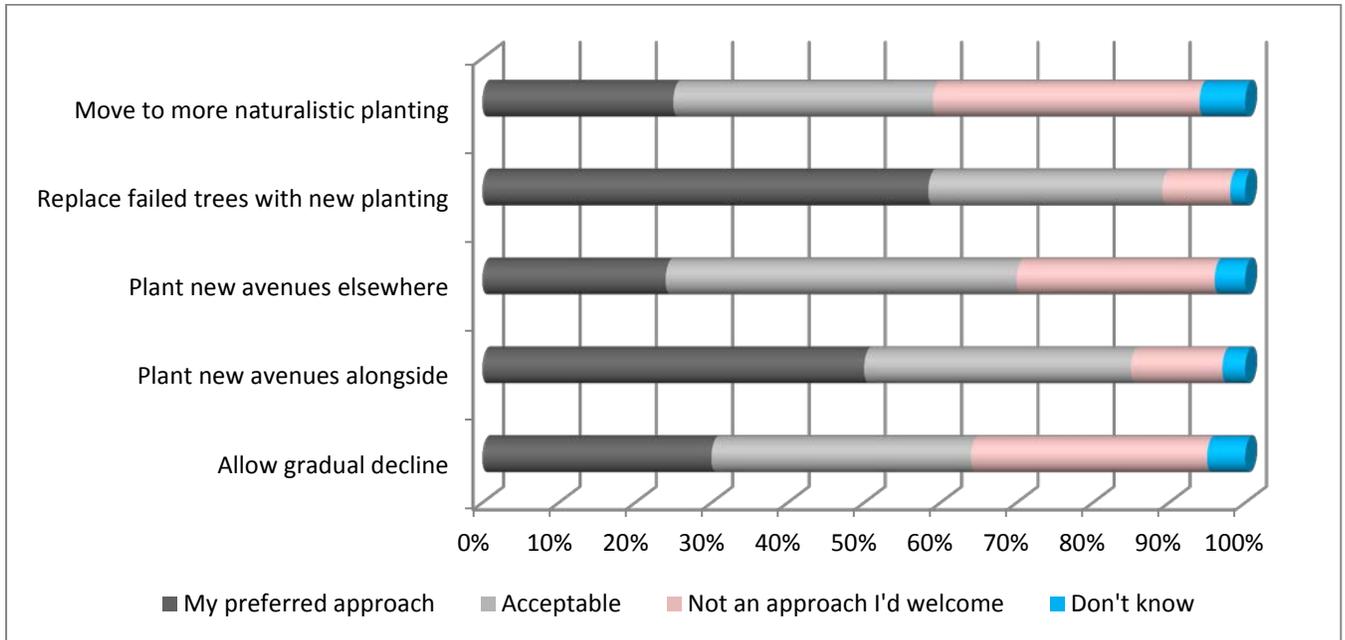
3.4 Avenues

Avenues of trees are an important dimension of Cambridge's streets and open spaces, but present challenges as regards replacement of trees as they begin to fail. Options were presented in the questionnaire and attracted these levels of support:

Table 6: Avenues

Option	Proportion of respondents			
	My preferred approach	Acceptable	Not an approach I'd welcome	Don't know
Replace failed trees with new planting	59%	31%	9%	2%
Plant new avenues alongside	50%	35%	12%	3%
Allow gradual decline	30%	34%	31%	5%
Move to more naturalistic planting	25%	34%	35%	6%
Plant new avenues elsewhere	24%	46%	26%	4%
<i>N (=100%)</i>	<i>Ranges from 194 to 216</i>			

Chart 6: Avenues



The option attracting the greatest support is the idea that failed trees should be replaced with new planting. Even though this approach threatens the uniformity of the avenue, this is the option supported by most people, with around three in five respondents favouring it, and almost everyone else expressing a degree of acceptance for this approach. Only one in eleven people oppose this option.

Planting new avenues alongside the existing ones also attracts support, with half of all respondents supporting this approach and a further third indicating that this would be acceptable to them; just one in eight respondents are opposed to this way forward.

All three remaining options attract a measure of support, and would be widely acceptable, but nevertheless attract significant minorities of opposition. Allowing gradual decline is an option that is finely balanced, with similar proportions on both sides of the argument; although a majority find this at least acceptable, it is not as enthusiastically supported as the first two options.

The strongest opposition to any option is the idea that the Council should move away from formal planting towards a greater degree of naturalism; although a quarter of people

support this approach, and a further third find it acceptable, a third (35%) say this approach is unwelcome.

There is much less support for planting new avenues, perhaps indicating that the fondness of local people for what they have is tempered by a degree of recognition that new avenues will create their own problems for future generations.

Groups endorse these results; they support the same options, and especially favour the replacement of failed trees (73% of group respondents support this) and the planting of new avenues alongside the originals (64% of group respondents support this). Groups are similarly opposed to any move towards more naturalistic planting, with 35% of group respondents opposing this approach.

Comments on this issue indicate a measure of empathy with the Council on what is agreed to be a tricky issue, though not necessarily one that should be seen as a 'problem'. The most prominent response is a suggestion that **no single approach** will suffice; different locations, different species and different challenges will all require tailored solutions. However there is a widespread feeling that the historic avenues are important, both in themselves as mature trees and also as part of the **character and heritage** of the city, and that preservation is important.

Some respondents observe that **formality and uniformity** are more important, or more appropriate, in some settings than in others; it may be important in city centre locations or visitor spaces, but naturalistic planting is completely acceptable in other contexts such as on the commons. Tree-lined avenues are also seen by some as less demanding in terms of uniformity.

There are several calls for a longer-term approach to management, with more forward thinking and less reactive planting; for some this means replacing older trees in time to allow replacements to develop, but there are others who would resist replacing any tree before it is absolutely necessary. Policy should also recognise the need to promote **disease-resistance** (perhaps by varying species) and also the **safety** of those using streets and public open space. Finally, **good practice** from elsewhere should be sought and followed.

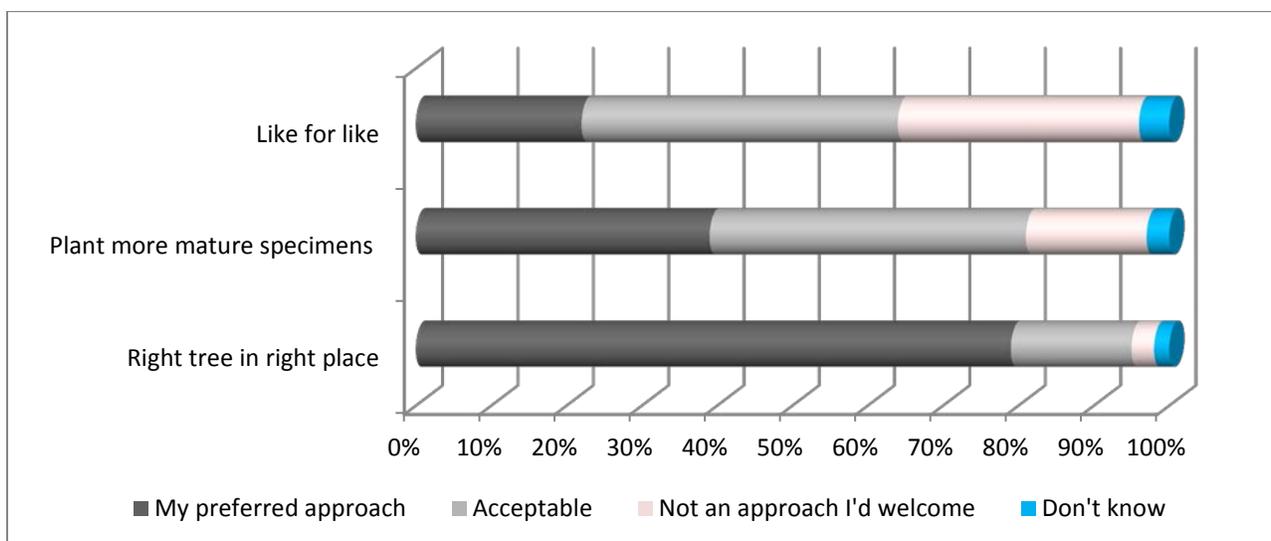
3.5 Replacement trees

The earlier consultation noted particular concerns about the quality of replacement trees, and some options were put forward in this consultation to explore perceptions as to what could be done about this. The results are shown below:

Table 7: Replacement Trees

Option	Proportion of respondents			
	My preferred approach	Acceptable	Not welcome	Don't know
Adopt 'The right tree in the right place' as our policy	79%	16%	3%	2%
Plant more mature specimens where we can	39%	42%	16%	3%
Replace trees on a 'like for like' basis	22%	42%	32%	4%
<i>N (=100%)</i>	<i>Ranges from 185 to 211</i>			

Chart 7: Replacement Trees



The policy of 'the right tree in the right place' receives strong endorsement from respondents. Four out of five give it their strong backing, and almost everyone else finds it at least acceptable as an approach; there is very little opposition to this option.

In contrast, although both the other options attract some support, there is much less enthusiastic backing for either planting more mature specimens or replacing on a 'like for like' basis. Just two in five respondents back the mature specimens, although a similar proportion find it acceptable, and just one in six object; 'like for like', on the other hand, only has a quarter of respondents in support, and nearly a third in opposition.

Patterns of response from groups are broadly similar, with strong support for 'the right tree in the right place', and a great deal more circumspection about either of the other two approaches. A significant minority (27%) opposes the 'like for like' approach.

Comments on this lack consensus; there are those who think a 'like-for-like' approach will tend to **preserve character**, whilst others argue that mature trees are too expensive and too difficult to establish; several people note that **trees grow slowly** in their natural state, and should be allowed to do so in an urban setting as well. But to offset this, **forward thinking** would recognise trees that might need replacing in future, and would plant nearby in time for the replacement to become semi-mature before the old tree fails.

There is also a view that the Council should be **more cautious on replacement** of trees, and less ready to follow the direction of insurers. Taking more account of trees when considering planning consent would help to avoid tree/building conflicts in the future.

A number of people ask that replacement trees should be **native species**, or at least locally grown and sourced; others, though, want to see more diversity and point out that 'the right tree in the right place' could easily encourage conformity and dullness. And on the 'right tree in the right place' some question **who makes this judgment** - and again urge the Council to act more independently of vested interests.

3.6 Privately owned trees

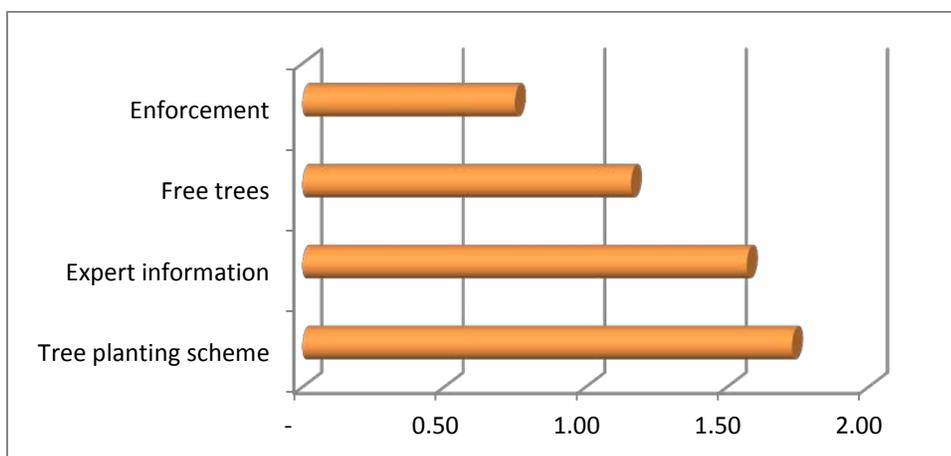
Support for the various options presented in respect of privately owned trees is indicated in this table. The answers have been converted into mean scores to facilitate comparison.²

² The mean score is calculated by assigning a score value to each response. In this instance a score of +2 is assigned to each 'strongly support' response, with +1 for a 'support with reservations' response. Responses

Table 8: Privately Owned Trees

Area of work	Mean score
Promote tree planting schemes with voluntary groups	1.73
Expert information to help private owners to choose suitable species and to care for their trees	1.57
Provide free trees for private owners in areas where there are fewer trees	1.16
Use enforcement powers more frequently and rely less on persuasion	0.75
<i>N (=100%)</i>	<i>Ranges from 206 to 211</i>

Chart 8: Privately Owned Trees



of 'Not sure' and 'don't support' are assigned scores of -1 and -2 respectively, while 'neutral is scored at zero. Don't knows are excluded from the calculation. The resulting score indicates both the direction (positive or negative) or perspectives on each issue, and also the strength of feeling with a score range of +2 to -2.

All the options generate positive scores, but the option receiving the strongest overall support is the promotion of a tree planting scheme with voluntary groups. Almost four out of five (79%) of respondents support this idea strongly, and almost everyone else gives it at least qualified support. There is also substantial support for the idea of providing expert guidance to private owners, to help them choose suitable species and to care for their trees; three-quarters of respondents give this approach their strong support, and there are very few who doubt this idea to any extent.

Although the other two approaches also attract positive scores, the views are more qualified. Just over half of respondents (52%) strongly support the idea of providing free trees for those areas where tree numbers are more limited, but one in eight respondents has a negative view of this idea. On enforcement, strong support is limited to just two out of five respondents (38%), and almost a quarter (22%) are opposed to this view to some degree.

As for the groups themselves, they strongly back the idea of tree planting schemes using the voluntary sector; no less than 91% of group respondents give this idea strong support, and no group spokesperson opposes it at all. Groups are more dubious than the wider populace about the value of free trees for private owners, but are more enthusiastic about enforcement.

The main focus of comments in this section is on **support for private owners**. Several respondents urge the Council to provide at least information and guidance for private owners, and to recognise the fact that some owners at least do not know what is best for their trees, and need help in this area. Others would go further and suggest the Council set up an advice scheme, publish an approved list of tree surgeons, or even provide its own in-house tree surgery service. There are also suggestions for involving voluntary providers and bodies, or garden centres, in providing advice or practical help for private owners.

Enforcement has its supporters, and there is also **cynicism** over the willingness of the Council to let developers, insurers or other interests have their way in disputes. Paving over of front gardens is cited as a challenge, and some urge the Council to restrict people's ability to do this, or to otherwise tighten up on orders. Some respondents take this opportunity to air their own **personal grievances** over tree decisions that have affected them.

Free trees are supported by some, but opposed by others who see them as unnecessary for private owners, and unlikely to be so valued as trees that are paid for. **Competitions** would be welcomed by some, and might attract sponsorship from local business.

3.7 Street Trees

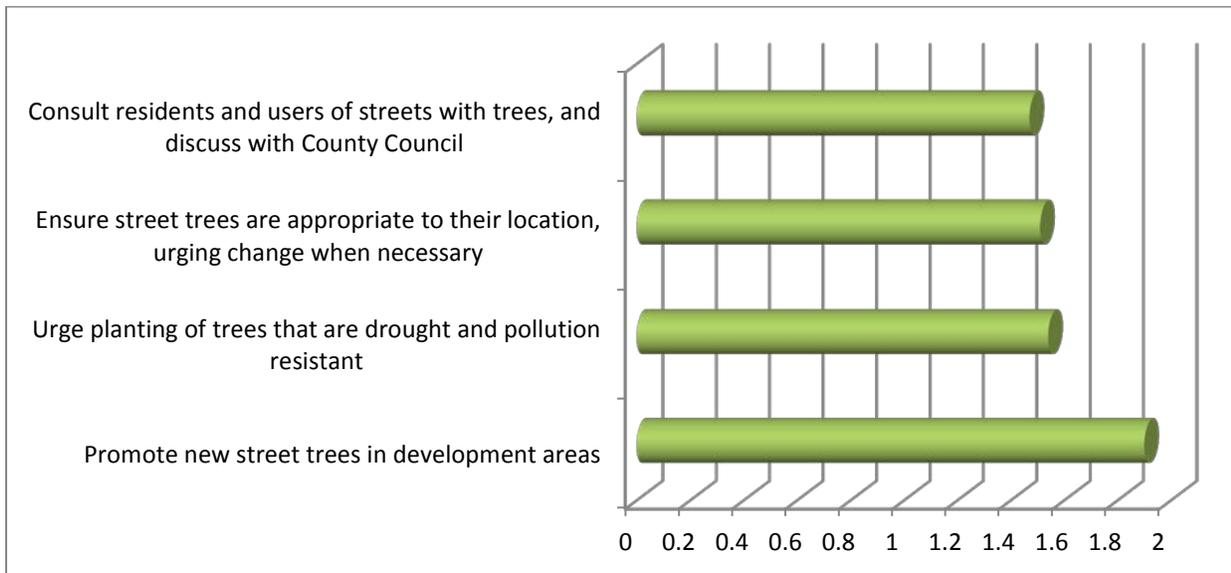
Street trees in Cambridge are primarily the responsibility of the County Council, in its capacity as highway authority, but are managed by the City Council under a contract for service. Whilst they add considerably to visual amenity, they can also be problematic in a number of respects, and the survey set out a number of ideas for dealing with street trees, with these results (converted into mean scores):³

Table 9: Street Trees

Area of work	Mean score
Promote new street trees in development areas	1.90
Urge planting of trees that are drought and pollution resistant	1.54
Ensure street trees are appropriate to their location, urging change when necessary	1.51
Consult residents and users of streets with trees, and discuss with County Council	1.47
<i>N (=100%)</i>	<i>Ranges from 210 to 213</i>

³ The mean score is calculated by assigning a score value to each response. In this instance a score of +2 is assigned to each 'strongly support' response, with +1 for a 'support with reservations' response. Responses of 'Not sure' and 'don't support' are assigned scores of -1 and -2 respectively, while 'neutral' is scored at zero. Don't knows are excluded from the calculation. The resulting score indicates both the direction (positive or negative) or perspectives on each issue, and also the strength of feeling with a score range of +2 to -2.

Chart 9: Street Trees



All four options receive positive endorsement, and all score highly. But the idea of promoting new street trees in development areas receives almost unanimous support, with over 90% of respondents backing this strongly, in spite of the issues street trees can cause in built-up areas.

The other three propositions receive more or less equal degrees of support. Those who score any of these options negatively are a small minority in each instance, so there is strong backing for choosing trees that will resist climate change, that are appropriate to their location, and consulting residents and those who use streets about their trees.

Groups follow the same pattern of response. There is unanimous support among groups for the promotion of new street trees in development areas (100%), and strong support for each of the other three options listed; opposition to any of these ideas is very limited.

Comments tend to echo these views, with stress on the significance of street trees and continuing support for **more street planting** in new development areas, and more generally across the city. But there is a concern that the species should be **appropriate to the location**, and that more thought should go into selection, to avoid uniformity and to anticipate future problems of either growth or fruiting.

Alongside this is an aspiration that pruning or felling of street trees should be more **carefully controlled**, with a greater acceptance and accommodation of trees, even if they interfere with other movement on the streets; having said that, several people express their own specific concerns about **named locations** where problems have arisen, and where attention has been seen to be lacking or sub-standard. Some residents clearly feel their views on these issues receive insufficient attention.

We note a degree of cynicism, or at least doubt, about the **value of consultation**. Some people feel this can be token in nature, and that the Councils are not always good at listening to what is said or being guided in their decisions by people's views - although there is also a perception that people with an agenda to pursue expect consultation to vindicate their position. Several people highlight a **lack of co-ordination** between councils, or even between departments within Councils, and cite instances where new planting has been quickly damaged by, for example, careless grass cutting, or road works that should have been anticipated. The **quality of care** given to street trees generally is also raised.

3.8 Controversy

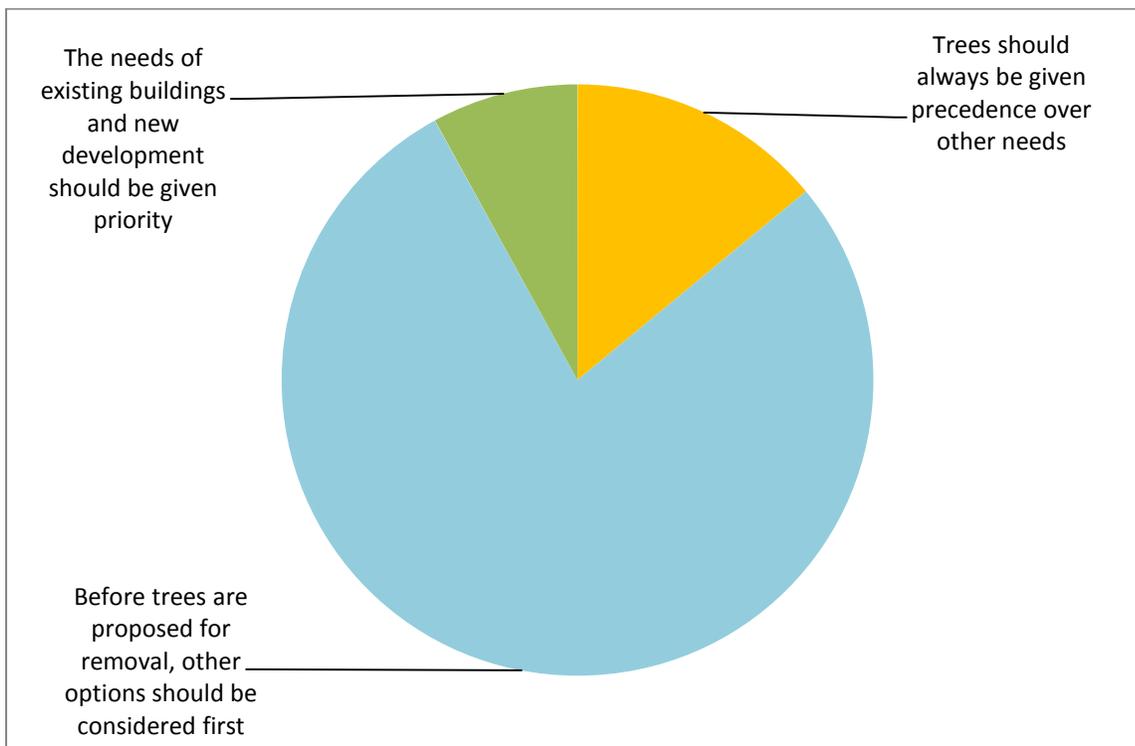
Trees have proven controversial in Cambridge in the past, and it is not always easy to reconcile the desirability of retaining a tree with issues of safety, structural damage to property, or leaf and sap residues on pavements and vehicles. The earlier consultation identified three possible approaches to underlie decision-making in this difficult area, and respondents were asked to choose one of these as a favoured approach, with these results:

Table 10: Controversy

Possible approach	Proportion of respondents
Before trees are proposed for removal, other options should be considered first	78%
Trees should always be given precedence over other needs	14%

The needs of existing buildings and new development should be given priority	8%
<i>N (=100%)</i>	214

Chart 10: Controversy



Each option has its proponents, but three quarters of respondents support the idea that, before trees are proposed for removal, other options are given due consideration. One in seven respondents holds the view that the tree should always take the first priority, and one in twelve supports the needs of structures and development ahead of trees that may conflict with this work.

Groups are a little more likely to give trees precedence, and are also more favourable towards the idea of priority for buildings and development, but even so a clear majority of group spokespeople back the idea preferred by respondents generally; 70% of group representatives support the notion that other options should be considered ahead of felling.

The comments on this question echo the wider controversy being discussed in this question. Some respondents want to put buildings (especially historic buildings), and

personal safety, first, while others think trees (especially historic, mature or landmark trees) should take precedence. A very prominent view, though, is that the Council should look at these issues on a case-by-case basis, trying to find a solution that allows tree retention, and that it should take these decisions openly and transparently, and after consultation.

The idea that the Council allows too much power to be put in the hands of developers is rehearsed here; there is also a view that the Council is insufficiently determined to fight off what are seen as spurious claims of damage or threat from insurers or property owners. One respondent commends the approach suggested by landscape architect Tom Armour as a way of managing tree/property conflicts.

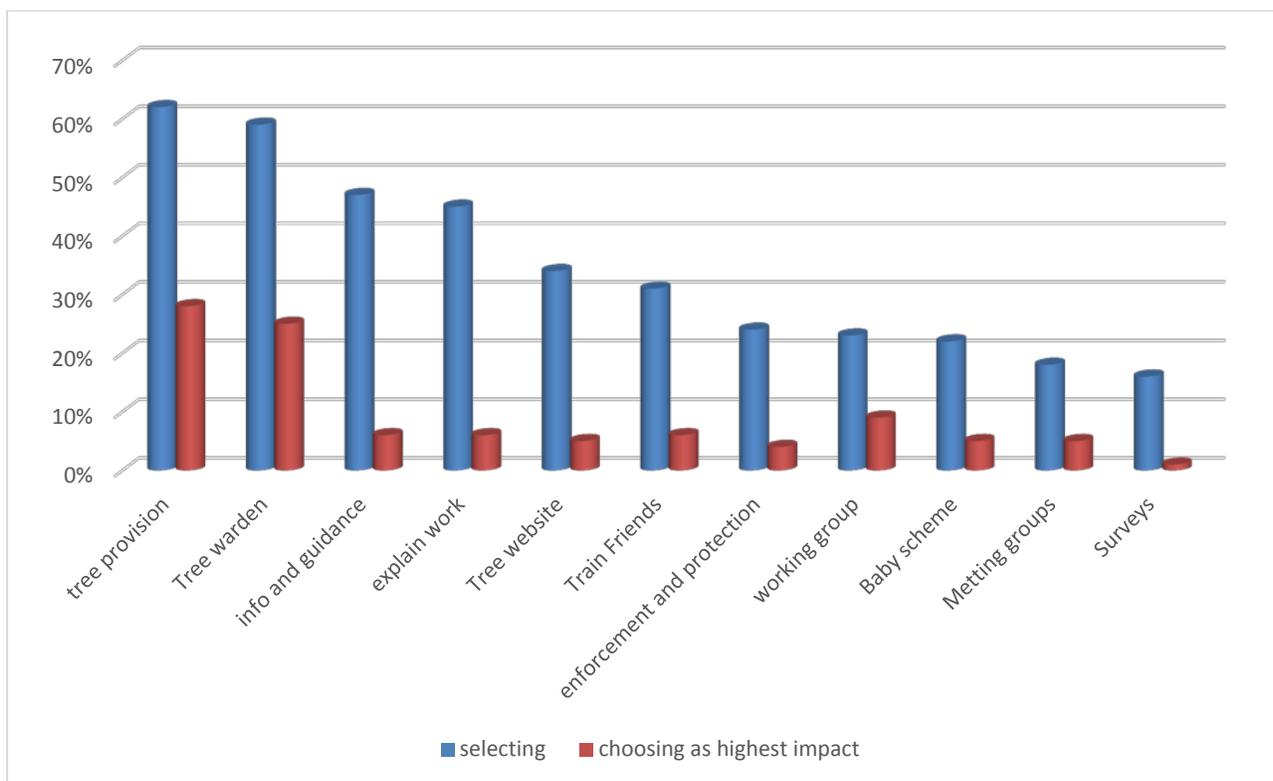
3.9 Engagement and involvement

There was a strong and recurring theme in the earlier consultation that local people wanted a greater level of involvement in caring for and protecting the city's trees, and on the need for co-ordination between different interested parties towards a shared objective. Several ideas as to how this could happen were suggested in the consultation, and respondents were asked to choose no more than four of these that they thought would have the greatest impact on the future of Cambridge's trees; they were then asked to choose, from those already identified, the one action that would have the greatest impact. The results are shown here:

Table 11: Engagement and involvement

Option	Proportion of respondents	
	selecting	choosing as highest impact
Organise, and provide trees for, local voluntary planting schemes	62%	28%
A voluntary tree warden scheme, training volunteers to identify and report problems	59%	25%
Provide info and guidance for homeowners on what trees to plant	47%	6%
Provide explanatory information when we do tree work	45%	6%
Train Friends' Groups to identify and report problems on their patch	31%	6%
Provide a tree area on our website, to allow people to exchange ideas and ask questions about trees	34%	5%
Provide more information about our enforcement and protection policies	24%	4%
A working group with other major tree owners, to share good practice	23%	9%
Promote the baby scheme, where new parents can have a tree planted to mark their new arrival	22%	5%
Meetings and discussions with local groups	18%	5%
Periodic questionnaire surveys to monitor public opinion and concerns	16%	1%
<i>N (=100%)</i>		212

Chart 11: Engagement and involvement



Most people took the opportunity to choose three or four options; the average response across the survey was 3.8 selections.

All of the options have their supporters, but some are much more popular than others. Three in five respondents chose voluntary tree schemes, with trees provided, as a way of engaging and involving people, and a similar proportion chose the voluntary tree warden option, whereby individual volunteers are trained to report problems back to the Council. Also prominent among people's choices are provision of information and guidance for private tree owners, and explanatory information when tree work is being undertaken (it was noted in the earlier consultation that this would reassure people about work in progress).

A tree area on the website would be valued by some respondents – a third of people chose this – and so would training of Friends' Groups, though it is noted that this is less popular than training individuals as tree wardens. Only one in three of those choosing volunteer

tree wardens also opted for Friends' Group training, so these are not necessarily seen as complementary.

Other suggestions attract support from a quarter of people or less. The least popular choice is the periodic questionnaire survey to test public opinion, which is only selected by 16% of respondents.

People were asked, from their four selections, to then choose one action that they thought would have the highest impact on the future of trees in Cambridge. The results follow the same pattern as the wider selection; the more popular the choice, the more it is seen as a higher impact solution. But a closer look indicates that only two choices stand out as high impact approaches: voluntary planting schemes, and the voluntary tree warden scheme. Aside from these, the numbers identifying other approaches as high impact are quite limited.

Group spokespersons also home in on the voluntary planting schemes and the volunteer tree wardens, with support too for explanatory information but less enthusiasm for providing information to private owners. Groups' high impact choices are exactly the same as for the survey as a whole.

Several respondents comment further on this question. In some cases, they expand on their choices; in others, they suggest priority areas for work, or ideas to promote the issue more widely and engage the public more.

A prominent group of responses suggest **potential partners in future public engagement** on trees, or to develop the suggested ideas further. Schools are the most frequently suggested, not least because of the potential for long-term commitment to tree causes, but the idea of engaging with existing voluntary groups is also mentioned several times, not only in terms of environmental and similar groups but also with other groups where interest might exist or could be stimulated, not least residents' associations. More specialist partners who could add value to the Council's work could include the Botanic Gardens, and the Woodland Trust (who, it is suggested, have tree planting schemes that might reduce the financial commitment of the authority).

Alongside these suggestions are another cluster which put forward **ideas for promoting trees** and engaging people more closely with them. Tree walks are in this list, guided by an expert, and tree adoption schemes are also regularly mentioned, but other possibilities include events and celebrations focussed on trees, and a possible Tree Trail of the notable

trees in Cambridge (one respondent volunteers to help with this). More imaginative promotion is called for, and linking ideas like the baby scheme with the Rosie, or encouraging the use of memorial trees, are both mentioned, as is the possibility of business sponsorship.

Engagement through the internet offers further possibilities, and there is interest in this, and in going beyond a simple information page to something more interactive, which might include putting the Council's own tree database online for wider access. A few respondents also suggest utilising the local media with a regular tree column or something similar.

Some respondents call for **specific actions** to support the emphasis being placed on trees, with **stronger enforcement** a common thread. The **need for resources** to be devoted to trees embraces not only finance, but also staff, and several people urge the authority to recruit, or to retain, skilled staff who can both manage trees and also engage the public. There are also suggestions that the role of tree wardens need not be purely defensive, but could also embrace the **identification of opportunities** for engagement, and the possibility of a Friends of Trees group is raised in one response.

Two respondents take the opportunity to welcome both the survey itself, and the way it has been undertaken.

3.10 Closing comments

Opportunity was provided at the end of the survey for people to add any further comments they wished us to record. Only a small number did so, and many of these reiterate observations already made elsewhere. There is criticism of the County Council, and of the alleged contract, which creates confusion over democratic accountability for street trees. There is also criticism of the way this survey was publicised, with two groups complaining about lack of notice. On the other hand, a number of people are grateful for the survey, the opportunity to comment on a subject close to them, and for the Council's work on Cambridge's trees.

Appendix: The survey form



TREES IN CAMBRIDGE CONSULTATION 2015

**Closing date for responses: 15th July
2015**

Welcome to our consultation on trees in Cambridge.

Cambridge City Council has been working for some time on the development of a comprehensive tree strategy, to help us manage the city's trees more effectively. We know there are issues we need to tackle now, but we also need to plan for the future of the city, so that our trees continue to thrive and delight future generations of residents and visitors.

We'd like to get your views on these issues, so that we can be sure our approach reflects the needs and aspirations of our community. So we've developed this questionnaire, to set out some of the issues we face, and the different options we've identified for dealing with them.

We've also prepared a short paper on **Why Trees Matter** which provides some background on the significance of trees in the urban environment. This is available on our website.

We need to make two things clear. One is that, although we've set out options for each issue, *this does not mean that we've made up our mind to go in any particular direction*. We've also provided space in each question to allow you to expand on your response, in case you want to, or to make further suggestions.

And secondly, all responses to this consultation are *entirely confidential*, and won't be disclosed to the Council, or to anyone else, in a way that allows you to be identified.

1 Are you responding to this consultation as....

Please tick ✓ all that apply.

A local resident 1

A representative of a group or organisation (which?) 2

Someone who works in, or visits, Cambridge 3

An environment or tree professional 4

Someone with an interest in the local environment 5

In some other capacity (*please specify*)

2

What is your home postcode? (We will use this only to analyse the answers to this questionnaire)

Please write in

3

Our strategy will include a **Vision Statement** that sets out our aim for the future of the city's trees. It could focus on preservation, or protection, or on new planting - but we think it needs to recognise that change will happen, and that we need to make sure that the tree stock of the future is at least as good as the present.

One possible vision is

"To manage our city's trees so as to maximise the benefits they offer us, whilst ensuring that the trees we leave for future generations, and the character they bring to our city, are at least as good as those we have inherited."

We'd like to know if you agree with this vision, or if you'd want to change it in any way.

Please tick ✓ one.

I agree with this vision

*I like this vision but want to
change it a little*

*I don't agree with this vision and
want to change it a lot*

Don't know

 1 2 3 4

4

Please tell us what changes you'd want to make to our suggested vision statement - or add any other comments you have at this stage.

5

The city's trees are part of a larger green landscape that includes grassland, watercourses, lakes and other green areas such as parks, commons and nature reserves. Management of our trees can't be done in isolation from these other aspects of the city.

The **urban forest** concept takes a holistic approach to tree management that aims to secure the maximum ecological, economic and social benefits that trees offer the city. The Council's role in this is crucial - but resource limitations mean we have to focus our efforts where they can have the greatest impact.

Our work can be summarised across these broad areas:

- as **community leader**, engaging with partners and the wider public and promoting tree awareness and good management practice;
- as a **service provider**, improving our statutory functions such as tree protection and enforcement;
- as an **advisor**, providing advice and guidance and responding to enquiries from the public and from other bodies;
- as an **asset manager**, concentrating on our own tree stock and ensuring that our own trees are properly managed;
- as a **contractor**, as in looking after street trees on behalf of the County Council.

Our statutory duties mean that most of our work is as an asset manager, looking after the trees we own and are responsible for, and as a service provider, carrying out our statutory duties. As we can't expand our resources at the moment, increasing the work we do in one area means reducing our efforts in another - so it's important we get the balance right.

Do you think we have our workload correctly balanced at the moment, or should we place greater emphasis on some areas than we do at present?

Please choose one answer that best reflects your view.

Keep the present balance of work 1

Please go to q 7

Change the present balance of work 2

Please go to q 6

Don't know 3

Please go to q 7

6

You say you think we should change the present balance. We can't easily change the contract with the County Council for our work on street trees; which of the remaining aspects of our work should expand, and which should reduce?
Please tick ✓ one on each row

	<i>Expand</i>	<i>Reduce</i>
Community leadership - engaging and raising awareness	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Service provision - exercising statutory functions such as protection and enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Advisor - providing guidance and responding to enquiries	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Asset management - making sure our own trees are properly managed	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2

7

Are there any other aspects of this you'd want to comment on?

8

Some areas of the city have better tree coverage than others - areas with terraced houses and flats often have fewer trees. But trees are beneficial to all urban environments, and we want to do more to **promote tree planting, and tree retention**, in these areas.

- We could **look for places to plant trees on our own land**, including parks, commons and open spaces
- We could **promote planting on private land**, especially in areas with limited numbers of trees.
- **We could be stricter** about getting trees into the landscape and streetscape of the growth areas, and other development sites

Please tell us whether or not you support these ideas.

	<i>Strongly support</i>	<i>Support, but with reservations</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Not sure this would be worthwhile</i>	<i>Don't support this idea at all</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Plant more trees on Council land	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Promote tree planting on private land	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Stricter requirements for trees when planning areas of new housing	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

9

Are there other things we could do to promote tree planting and conservation in areas with limited tree numbers?

10

Avenues of trees add special character to spaces like Jesus Green, and to streets like Victoria Avenue. Avenues are widely liked as a landscape feature, bringing their own character and providing perspective and direction. They have typically developed with a great deal of uniformity, using a single species, of similar maturity and height, and evenly spaced from their neighbours.

But as the trees age, they become more susceptible to disease, and they may even need to be removed for safety reasons.

We can't just replace these trees with trees of similar maturity - so what should we do with avenues as they age?

Some options are suggested below.

- We could manage avenue trees into old age and allow them to fail naturally. This would protect existing trees, but risks eroding the character of the avenue as its trees are lost one by one.
- We could plant new avenues alongside the existing ones (where space allows) so that when the original avenue has to be removed, a new one is emerging to replace it.
- We could plant new avenues in entirely new places. The existing avenues would live on to their full span of life while new avenues would create their own character - but would also give future generations the same problems we have now.
- We could replace failed trees with new planting, maintaining the avenue but accepting that the uniformity will, over time, be lost.
- We could take a more 'naturalistic' approach and plant trees so that over time the avenues become less formal, and more woodland-like, replacing formality with greater randomness of spacing and location

What do you think of these suggestions?

	<i>My preferred approach</i>	<i>Acceptable, but not my preferred approach</i>	<i>Not an approach I'd welcome</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Allow avenue trees to age and decline gradually	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Plant new avenues alongside existing ones	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Plant new avenues in other places, and allow the existing avenues to complete their natural lifespan	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Replace failed trees with new planting in the same place	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Gradual movement away from formal planting to more naturalistic planting	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

11 Is there anything you'd like to add about your answer on this tricky issue?

12

You've told us that **replacement trees** are never as good as the trees they replace - but we still need to remove existing trees from time to time, for safety or visual reasons, or because they threaten property, or to enable necessary development.

Replacing these trees helps to maintain numbers but raises questions about the quality and location of replacements.

National experts think we should follow the dictum 'the right tree in the right place', meaning that we would plant trees thinking about their final size and spread, their suitability for the soil, and their other characteristics such as thorns, fruit, and so on.

However, we know that some people want us to replace trees with mature specimens on a 'like for like' basis. Doing this would help to preserve the character of the location, but mature trees don't grow quickly, and they cost more - so we'd be able to do less replacement work overall.

But what do you think?

	<i>My preferred approach</i>	<i>Acceptable, but not my preferred approach</i>	<i>Not an approach I'd welcome</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Adopt 'the right tree in the right place' as our policy	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Plant more mature specimens when we can	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Replace trees on a 'like for like' basis	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

13 Are there other things that we could do to improve the quality of replacement trees?

14 Many of the city's trees are on **private land**, and are outside our control other than through Tree Protection Orders. Even with these, we can't protect every tree, so we need to find ways to encourage private tree owners to look after their own trees.

- We could tighten up our enforcement policy, so that we use enforcement powers more and rely less on persuasion
- We could provide expert guidance for private owners, including landlords, on the most suitable trees to plant locally and on how to look after them. This could be done quite inexpensively, and we might also be able to incentivise garden improvement such as through a locally sponsored competition.
- We could provide free trees to encourage planting in those areas where we'd like to see more trees.
- We could promote tree planting schemes with groups like Residents' Associations or Friends of open spaces.

Please tell us whether or not you support these ideas.

	<i>Strongly support</i>	<i>Support, but with reservations</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Not sure this would be worthwhile</i>	<i>Don't support this idea at all</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Use our enforcement powers more frequently, and rely less on persuasion	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Expert information to help private owners to choose suitable species, and to care for their trees	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Provide free trees for private owners in areas where there are fewer trees	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Promote tree planting schemes with voluntary groups	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

15 Are there other ways we could encourage better care for privately owned trees?

16

Cambridge has several trees on its streets and highways. These can add greatly to the visual attractiveness of the locality. But sometimes street trees can cause problems. They can cause damage to pavements and buildings, obstruct pedestrians and wheelchairs, conflict with buses and high-sided vehicles, block light and visibility, and interfere with underground services.

Street trees in Cambridge are mostly owned by Cambridgeshire County Council, as the highway authority, and it is the County Council's responsibility to look after them. In Cambridge, the County Council contracts with Cambridge City Council to manage street trees on its behalf, and funds us to provide a specified level of maintenance on street trees.

This means that our own options as regards street trees are limited. But we'd still like to know your thoughts on street trees.

- We could promote new street trees in areas of new housing development
- We should take care to ensure that street trees are appropriate for their location, and urge change of species when necessary
- We should urge planting of types of street tree that are pollution and drought resistant, and that help to mitigate the effects of climate change
- We should consult residents and users of streets with trees as to the issues these may be raising, and discuss possible solutions with the County Council

Please tell us whether or not you support these ideas.

	<i>Strongly support</i>	<i>Support, but with reservations</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Not sure this would be worthwhile</i>	<i>Don't support this idea at all</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Promote new street trees in development areas	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Ensure street trees are appropriate to their location, urging change when necessary	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Urge planting of trees that are drought and pollution resistant	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Consult residents and users of streets with trees, and discuss with County Council	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

17 Is there anything you'd like to add about street trees?

18 Trees can be controversial. Sometimes, trees planted long ago with the best of intentions cause unexpected problems for residents when they mature. They can block light, or shed leaf litter or sap on to footpaths; their roots can cause damage to footpaths and walls, and sometimes to buildings themselves.

However much we prioritise trees, we need to be sure about safety, potential damage to property, and disease control. Often this involves fine judgments, and not everyone thinks we get this right.

Basically, we see three possible choices here, and we'd like your view on these.

- We could assume that the tree takes precedence over other needs. This offers greater protection to trees, but means we'd end up allowing some property to be damaged, and leaving trees in places where people don't want them.
- We could take a case-by-case approach, where, when trees are proposed for removal, other options have to be considered first.
- We could assume that trees need to fit around other needs such as building conservation or development. This protects valuable buildings, but risks losing some valuable trees.

Which do you think should be our underlying approach?

Please choose one answer.

Trees should always be given precedence over other needs ₁

Before trees are proposed for removal, other options should be considered first ₂

The needs of existing buildings and new development should be given priority ₃

19 Are there any observations you want to make about this?

20

Recurring themes in your feedback are that you want **more opportunities to get involved** in caring for and protecting the city's trees, and that you think we should try to work alongside other major tree owners to ensure a more co-ordinated approach.

Both these aims are entirely in line with central Government policy - and we agree that both ambitions will help us to achieve more than we can do on our own.

There are a lot of possibilities in this area, but resource limitations mean we have to make sure our engagement and partnership work are sustainable and don't draw resources away from the front line.

Please look over this list of possible actions, and in the first column of boxes, choose **no more than four** that you think would have the biggest impact on the future of trees in Cambridge.

Then in the second column, choose **the one action you think would have the greatest impact.**

	<i>My four choices</i>	<i>The greatest impact</i>
A voluntary tree warden scheme, training volunteers to identify and report problems to us	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Organise, and provide trees for, local voluntary planting schemes	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Promote the baby scheme, where new parents have the chance to have a tree planted to mark the new arrival	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Train Friends Groups to identify and report problems on their 'patch'	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Provide explanatory information when we do tree work	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Provide information and guidance for homeowners on what trees to plant	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Provide more information about our enforcement and protection policies	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
Provide a tree area on our website, to allow people to exchange ideas and ask each other (and us) questions about trees	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
Meetings and discussions with local groups	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
A working group with other major tree owners, to allow sharing of good practice	<input type="checkbox"/> 10	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
Periodic questionnaire surveys to monitor public opinion and concerns	<input type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 11

21 Are there other things we could do to increase public involvement, or to strengthen partnerships?

22 And finally, is there anything else you'd like to add?

Thank you for taking our survey. Your response is very important to us. We'll publish the results of the consultation, and the Council's response to it, on the Council's website.

Please return your completed questionnaire to

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CB1 2AZ**