

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

1st September 2025

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cllr AS Khan, Cabinet Member for Policing & Equalities

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of City Services & Commercial

Ward(s) affected:

Sherbourne

Title:

Petition – Save the view of Lake View Park from Lake View Road

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive summary:

A petition supported by 55 signatures was submitted by a number of local residents who are asking for greater consultation on the planting of new trees that affect the view of Lake View Park from the properties that face the park. The petition reads as follows:

We the undersigned petition the Council to consult with residents on Lake View Road on the location and number of new trees to be planted at Lake View Park. Residents in other parts of the city have been consulted on the location of new trees as part of Trees for Cities funding, to ensure that the new trees are welcomed and are a best use of the resource.

The new trees were funded by the government grant called the Urban Tree Challenge Fund which, provided sufficient resources for the council to plant 36 semi mature trees on this park.

The Parks Service team worked with the Urban Forestry team to find the best location for the trees on this site and the open northern side of the park was considered the best option, because they would provide shading for a future path that is proposed and awaiting funding.

Due to resourcing problems, the Urban Forestry team overlooked the need to notify the local residents of this change. Residents in similar locations where trees were being planted did receive notification of trees being planted.

The trees are being planted to help the city council achieve its goals as set out in the Urban Forestry Strategy. The main aim is to plant 360,000 trees to help fight the effects of climate change.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is recommended to:

1. Note the concerns raised in the petition.
2. Approve the retention of the trees as they have been planted, noting that the council will manage the trees to maximise the future benefits that they can provide.
3. Request that officers improve the method of notification to ensure that all future planting projects are known to all local residents in advance of planting works.

List of Appendices included:

None

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

Urban Forestry Strategy – See link below

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/heritage-ecology-trees/coventry-urban-forestry-strategy-2022-2032>

Climate Change Strategy – See link below

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/climate-change/climate-change-strategy>

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Save the view of Lake View Park from Lake View Road

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. A petition supported by 55 signatures was submitted by a number of local residents who are asking for greater consultation on the planting of new trees that affect the view of Lake View Park from the properties that face the park. The petition reads as follows:

We the undersigned petition the Council to consult with residents on Lake View Road on the location and number of new trees to be planted at Lake View Park. Residents in other parts of the city have been consulted on the location of new trees as part of Trees for Cities funding, to ensure that the new trees are welcomed and are a best use of the resource.

- 1.2. The new trees were funded by the government grant called the Urban Tree Challenge Fund which, provided sufficient resources for the council to plant 36 semi mature trees on this park.
- 1.3. The Parks Service team worked with the Urban Forestry team to find the best location for the trees on this site and the open northern side of the park was considered the best option, because they would provide shading for a future path that is proposed and awaiting funding.
- 1.4. Due to resourcing problems, the Urban Forestry team overlooked the need to notify the local residents of this change. Residents in similar locations where trees were being planted did receive notification of trees being planted.
- 1.5. The trees are being planted to help the city council achieve its goals as set out in the Urban Forestry Strategy. The main aim is to plant 360,000 trees to help fight the effects of climate change.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1. Option 1 – Remove all trees to restore the view of the park. This should be rejected because of the value the trees will provide in shading, amenity and ecosystem services for the benefit of all who live in Coventry. The city is known as one of the most green deprived cities in the UK and providing trees for future benefits is a key action in the adopted Urban Forestry Strategy. Lake View Park is within an area identified as having moderate level of green deprivation. Furthermore, there is no legal right to a view, with regard to trees.
- 2.2. Option 2 – Note the content of the petition and retain the trees as they are planted and manage them to maximise the future benefits that they can provide. Also improve the method of notification to ensure that **all** future planting projects are known to all local residents in advance of future planting works. This is the recommended option.

The trees have been planted approximately 40m away and 4 metres lower than the properties on Lake View Road and they are spaced 10 metres apart to provide space for growth. The trees will grow and develop over a long period estimated to be 30 to 40 years. Their ultimate heights are expected to be approximately 10 metres plus and therefore the impact on the view of the park is progressive over an extended time.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1. Notification letters were sent to all residents once the Urban Forestry Team realised that this location had been overlooked. The letters were received by residents at the same time as the trees were being planted along with changes to the site being undertaken by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust as part of the Sherbourne Valley project.
- 3.2. The oversight was due to a specific in-service pressure that are now not present. Changes within the Parks & Openspaces team have already provided resources to allow all future tree planting projects will be consulted with local residents appropriately, to make sure everyone knows of the changes.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

As the trees have already been planted, this is not applicable.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Resources and Director of Law and Governance

5.1. Financial Implications

None

5.2. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report. This report is being considered in line with the councils' petition scheme.

6. Other implications

6.1. How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>

The decision will contribute to the following one Coventry Plan –

Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change – Nature based Development. To promote biodiversity and the natural heritage and greenspace across the city. Protecting and developing existing and new biodiversity and habitats for current and future generations.

Links to the Urban Forestry Strategy and Climate Change Strategy have been included within this report.

6.2. How is risk being managed?

There is no ongoing risk.

6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4. Equalities / EIA?

This decision does not impact on Equalities

6.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?

The removal of these trees would be counterproductive to meeting the challenges of climate change and does not provide anything positive for all the residents.

6.6. Implications for partner organisations?

None

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Contributor/approver name	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
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Other Members				

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Legal: Oluremi Aremu	Head of Legal & Procurement Services	Law and Governance	17/06/25	08/07/25
Mark Adams	Director	-	8/7/25	16/07/25
Members: Cllr Abdul Khan	Cabinet Member for Policing & Equalities	-	16/7/25	21/07/25

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