

Meeting of:	Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Tuesday, 22 October 2024
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Environment and Regeneration
Report Title:	Draft Tree Strategy (2024-2039)
Purpose of Report:	To report the results of the public consultation exercise and to seek the views of Committee on the proposed final Draft of the Tree Strategy (2024-2039)
Report Owner:	Miles Punter – Director of Environment and Housing
Responsible Officer:	Colin Smith – Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Due to the corporate nature of this report, no specific Ward Member consultation has been undertaken. Legal (Committee Reports) Head of Head of Sustainable Development Operational Manager – Accountancy
Policy Framework:	The report is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At present the Council’s tree stock is managed using long-standing integrated procedures and processes, often aimed at mitigating the Council’s third-party risk for damage caused by trees. Most of the planned maintenance work undertaken on trees is currently prioritised based on risk. Our tree planting and tree replacement schemes, though successful in many cases, are not coordinated Vale wide and tend to be driven by individual service departments in the absence of a Strategy. • The Council’s commitment to both the Climate Emergency and the Nature Emergency will mean that the actions and polices of the Council, will need to take into consideration the impact on both the climate and biodiversity, across the Vale and how we manage our tree stock in the future will be instrumental to achieving our commitments. • In considering trees and planning for the future, we will need to ensure that trees are recognised as public assets, rather than liabilities. Across the Council we will all need to focus our efforts on actively protecting and increasing tree cover and ensuring the right tree is planted in the right place. • This Report provides the outcome of the 12-week public consultation exercise, and reports the key themes identified from the survey response report[s]. 	

- The Report also seeks the Committee's views to finalise the Draft Strategy, considering the many factors associated with trees and their impact on the environment as well as the results of the consultation exercise.
- The Strategy is inclusive, in that it requires all Council Departments to accept and follow the principles and objectives, it also relies on the support of the voluntary sector, individual members of the public, developers and private landowners.

Recommendations

1. That the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (the Committee) notes the public consultation survey results (Appendices A and B) in relation to the Draft Tree Strategy.
2. That the Committee consider the comments and the suggested amendments to the Draft Tree Strategy (Appendix C).
3. That any comments the Committee has on the proposed final draft of the Strategy are passed to Cabinet for its consideration prior to seeking its agreement of the Tree Strategy 2024/2039.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To ensure the Committee has an opportunity to consider the public consultation responses, in relation to the Draft Tree Strategy.
2. To ensure the Committee considers the comments raised by members of the public as well as the suggested amendments, so the results are integrated within The Strategy, where appropriate.
3. To enable Cabinet to consider the comments of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee prior to agreeing the Strategy.

1. Background

- 1.1 Cabinet on 30th November 2023, (minute no. C173 refers) agreed the Draft Tree strategy (2024-2039) in principle subject to the results of a 12-week public consultation.

[Draft Tree Strategy Report \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

- 1.2 Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 16th January 2024 (Minute no. 700 refers) considered the Draft Tree Strategy (2024 - 2039) and made recommendations for consideration, prior to the public consultation exercise.

[valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee Reports/Scrutiny-ER/2024/24-01-16/Ref-from-Cab-VoG-Council-Tree-Strategy.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee-Reports/Scrutiny-ER/2024/24-01-16/Ref-from-Cab-VoG-Council-Tree-Strategy.pdf)

- 1.3 Cabinet on 22nd February 2024 (minute no. C243 refers) considered and noted the comments of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (16th

January 2024) and to highlight that Town and Community Councils could engage in the consultation process.

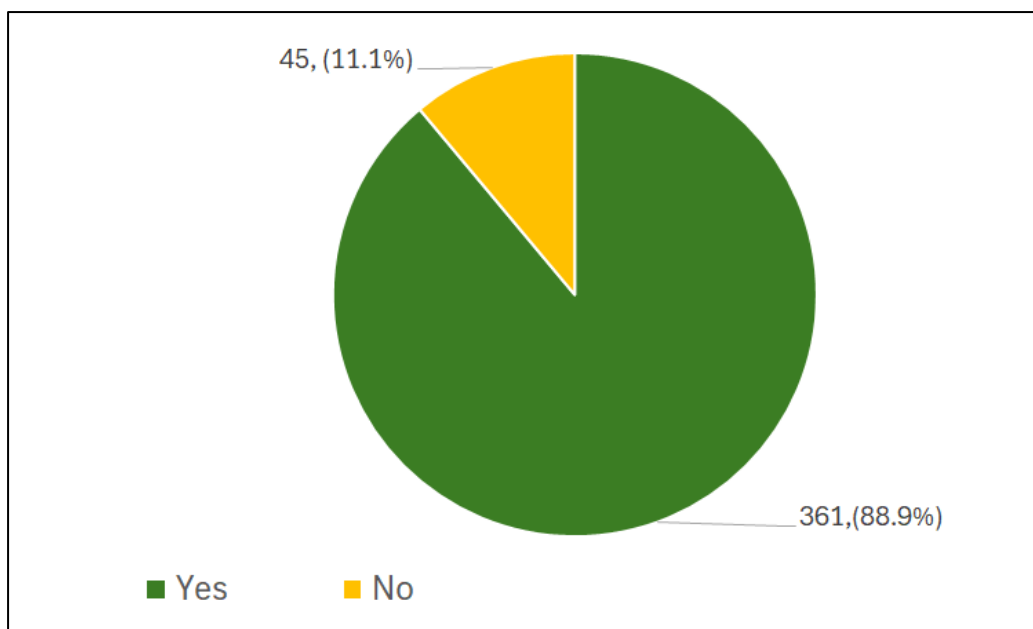
[Ref from ER - Vale of Glamorgan Council Tree Strategy](#)

- 1.4** In 2019, the Council established Project Zero as response to the climate change emergency declared by Welsh Government. It brings together the wide range of work and opportunities available to tackle the climate emergency, reduce the Council's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030 and encourage others to make positive changes.
- 1.5** As a Council we are committed to investing in our green spaces and delivering natural carbon storage solutions such as those provided by trees, meadow areas, grassland and other natural habitats across the Vale of Glamorgan to enhance air quality and reduce the impact of greenhouse gasses.
- 1.6** Within the Council, trees fall within the remit of numerous departments of the Council, from Planning, Legal and Environmental Health to Corporate Estates, Education, Parks and Countryside, Housing and Highways. Trees cannot be considered in isolation. They form a major part of our Green Infrastructure and how we manage them should complement other works carried out by the Council in terms of climate change measures.
- 1.7** A Tree Strategy will provide a unified direction for all Council departments in respect of our tree activity and provide a framework to consider the organisational and resource requirements needed to address the current challenges and the opportunities highlighted by the broader scope of the climate change and biodiversity emergencies.
- 1.8** The consultation exercise on the draft Tree Strategy was launched on 25th January 2024 and closed on 18th April 2024.
- 1.9** The Council's engagement platform, Participate Vale, was used to host the consultation where a dedicated project page gave stakeholders an overview of the aims of the strategy, a link to view the full draft strategy and to respond to the consultation, either by completing an online survey or by writing to the Council to share their views.
- 1.10** The consultation was also promoted through the Council's social media channels and by writing to key stakeholders who have an interest in the management of trees across the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 1.11** Additionally, a press release was issued to local media to explain the aims of The Strategy and to give stakeholders an opportunity to comment.
- 1.12** Once the consultation was launched the press release on the Council's website was updated to include the links to the Participate Vale page and an e-mail was sent to the Council's consultation mailing list, which has over 5,000 subscribers.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 The consultation report detailing the comments received in relation to the draft Tree Strategy (2024-2039) is attached (Appendix A).
- 2.2 From the consultation process, there were 410 responses to the online survey, 408 in English and 2 in Welsh hosted through the Council's new engagement tool, Participate Vale.
- 2.3 In addition to the responses to the survey, two written responses were received from local organisations attached at Appendix B. Both responses are generally supportive of the strategy and its contents, with some suggested changes.
- 2.4 These have been considered by Officers and comments added to the responses attached at Appendix B in yellow and changes shown within the Draft Tree Strategy (Rev 2) attached at Appendix C, for consideration.
- 2.5 The amendments to the Draft Strategy are highlighted in "Italics" as numbered amendments within Draft Tree Strategy (Rev 2) and the original wording shown grey.
- 2.6 The responses from the consultation survey demonstrate that there is overwhelming support for the proposed Strategy and its aims and objectives.
- 2.7 Overall, 88.9% of respondents agreed that the Council is right to focus resources on protecting and managing its existing tree stock as highlighted in figure 1 below.

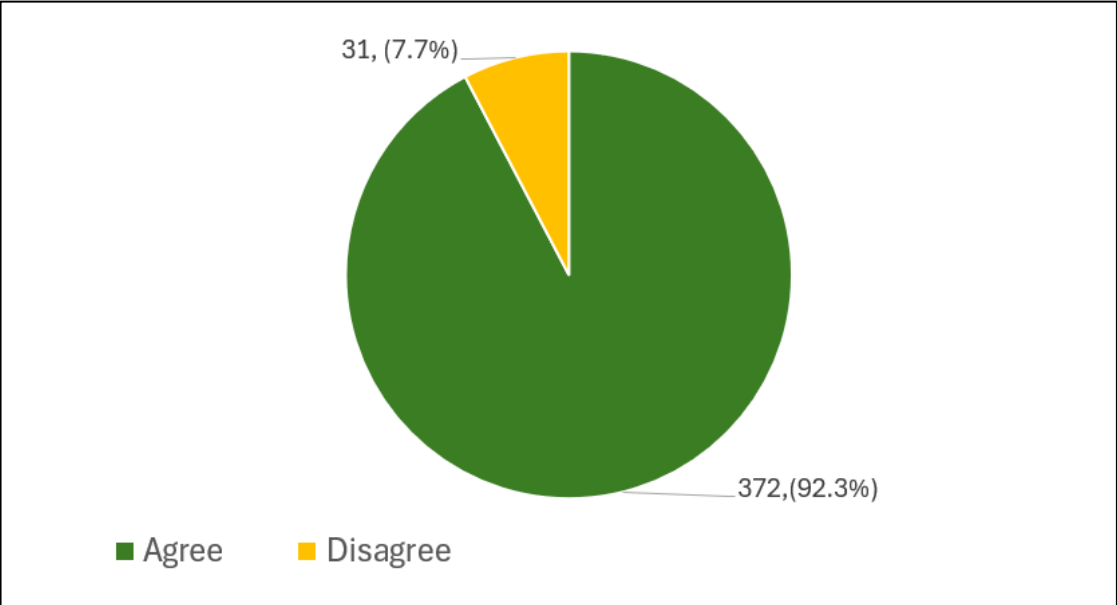
Figure 1.



- 2.8 Overall, 92.3% of respondents agreed that as the Council is responsible for trees not only on Council land (parks, gardens and schools), but also for roadside trees, trees on development sites and protected trees.

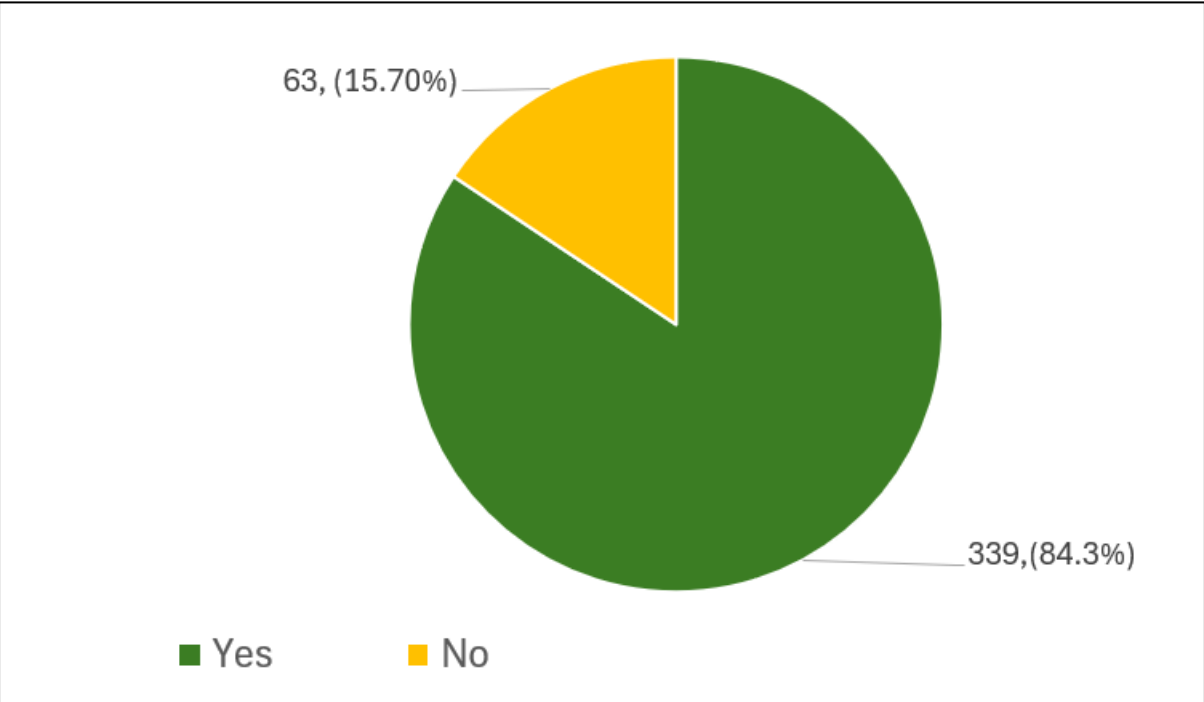
2.9 The Draft Tree Strategy proposes that the council should consider long term benefits of trees and other natural habitats in tackling the nature and climate emergencies as highlighted in Figure 2 below:

Figure 2.



2.10 Overall, 84.3% of respondents agreed with the draft strategy suggestion that it should focus on tree planting initiatives in built up areas, and areas where there is less than 15% canopy cover as a priority as this would provide the greatest impact on the climate and nature emergency, whilst providing well-being benefits for local people and businesses as highlighted in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3



2.11 Overall, the respondents agreed with the guiding principles set out in the strategy as follows:

- *Commit to protect and care for our tree stock:*
84% agreed.
- *Commit to work to retain existing mature tree stock, wherever possible in both public and private settings:*
92.8% agreed.
- *Commit to identify suitable locations across the Council's` land holding where additional tree planting can be accommodated, without detriment to the existing habitats:*
91.3% agreed.
- *Commit to ensure that trees that are lost are replaced in greater numbers by planting a minimum of 2 trees for every one removed within the urban environment and develop a sliding scale of mitigation based on the extent of tree loss:*
87.4% agreed.
- *Commit to plant a minimum of 1500 trees annually, which will include a minimum of 500 standard (2m tall trees), in predetermined targeted areas (right tree, right place), across the Council estate:*
83.1% agreed.
- *Commit to develop tree planting schemes/natural regeneration:*
90.3% agreed.
- *Commitment to ensure that the right tree is planted in the right place:*
90.6% agreed.
- *Commit to increase urban street canopy cover within the adopted Highway year on year:*
82.4% agreed.
- *Commit to a net increase in canopy cover in urban areas on Council owned land by 5% by 2039:*
80.1% agreed.

2.12 There were a total 807 comments submitted and several key themes identified which have been summarised, as below.

Theme 1 – Maintenance

2.13 A key theme that generated comments was concerns over the current maintenance regimes. Historically, up until the recent appointment of a new Arboricultural Manager, the Council's tree stock has been managed using long-standing procedures and processes, often aimed at mitigating the Council's

third-party risk for damage caused by trees, with most of the planned maintenance work, undertaken on trees being prioritised, based on risk.

- 2.14** However, since the appointment of the Arboricultural Manager, the service area has instigated and initiated a dedicated asset management system (Confirm) to record findings, plot Council owned trees and proactively manage and program all maintenance requirements, including a cyclical 3-year inspection regime.
- 2.15** Effectively, the service area is better structured to manage responsible maintenance and ensuring the protection of our tree stock using revised processes and adopting arboricultural best practice.
- 2.16** There were several specific comments relating to the practice of pollarding (“heavy pollarding”), and this will only continue for trees that have historically and cyclically been pollarded every 5 to 7 years. Once this method of maintenance is undertaken, usually at the early stages of the growth, it is advisable to continue this cycle to ensure no future weak points develop within the trees structure.
- 2.17** With any “lapsed pollards” (a tree that may have been last pollarded 20 plus years ago) we are now managing these by sensitivity reducing the crown to retain as much crown, and canopy shape as possible.
- 2.18** To assist with this revised process, an additional £75k has been allocated to maintaining our tree stock (new and old), every year for the next 5-years.

Theme 2: Development / Planning Decisions / TPO concerns

- 2.19** A key theme that raised a high number of comments mainly over loss of trees due to new Housing Developments. It is to be noted that within the draft tree strategy it notes the importance of trees as a material consideration, whilst making planning decisions.
- 2.20** Awareness over effective tree management will continue to be raised with private landowners and developers of the critically important nature of their management of trees and woods and the benefits they provide our communities and environment.
- 2.21** Future consideration to a suitably qualified Tree Preservation Officer (TPO) within the planning department would be advantageous but at present, there is no funding available for a post which will need to be periodically reviewed.
- 2.22** The Tree Strategy will also consider how the Council can influence and encourage developers to safeguard and retain existing trees and to plant trees as a matter of priority, particularly in new housing developments or major infrastructure projects.
- 2.23** A key objective noted within the draft tree strategy is to ensure that all tree related decisions and activities are made in a consistent and structured way across all Council Directorates, in line with The Strategy once approved.

Theme 3: The need for Planting

- 2.24** Another key theme that generated many comments was the need for new planting. It is to be noted that within The Strategy, there are guiding principles that we have committed to, to plant a minimum of 1500 trees annually, which will include a minimum of 500 standards (2m tall trees), in predetermined targeted areas (the right tree, in the right place), across the Council estate.
- 2.25** To assist with additional tree planting, there is a £100k in the capital programme every year for the next 5-years for purchasing new trees.
- 2.26** Additionally, the Council is committed to ensure that trees that are lost are replaced in greater numbers by planting a minimum of 2 trees for every one removed within the urban environment, The Strategy includes a sliding scale of mitigation based on the extent of tree loss (see Table 1 below).

Table 1.

Trunk Diameter of existing tree (cm)	Number of replacement trees
Up to 39.9	2
40 to 49.9	3
50 - 59.9	4
60 to 69.9	5
70 to 79.9	6
80 plus	7

Theme 4: Street Tree Planting

- 2.27** There were a high number of comments raising the concern over the loss of highway street trees, specifically in relation to the need to replant in the felled tree's location or as near as is possible within the urban landscape and adopted highway.
- 2.28** It is to be noted that there are many factors that can hinder the ability of planting directly within the built adopted highway such as existing below ground services, overhead services, lack of available below ground space for root growth zone, Highway Legislation relating to visibility (note: based on specific locations) and associated costs of planting pit design and construction. However, within The Draft Strategy, there are guiding principles committed to increasing urban street canopy cover year on year and therefore, it will ensure tree planting will progress on the adopted highway.

Theme 5: Canopy Cover and Target

- 2.29** There were a high number of comments raised over the concern that the target of a 5% canopy increase over 15 years was too low and that it needed to be more ambitious.
- 2.30** It is worth noting in a study of 283 UK towns and cities (Doick et al. 2017) recommended a minimum canopy cover target of 20% (with 15% for coastal

locations). Our current urban canopy cover is 13% but 10.8% of our current tree stock within the Vale of Glamorgan is Ash.

- 2.31** With Ash Die Back set to see the decline of Ash trees and the removal of approximately 80% of these trees, over the next 10-years years. The loss of 80% of Ash trees could equate to an approximate overall canopy loss of 8.6%, therefore over the period of this strategy we will also need to sustain, retain and replant approximately 8.6% of canopy loss.
- 2.32** However, it is noted that the proposed 5% canopy may have been too low, and it was only ever set as a baseline with an aspiration to surpass the target, where possible.
- 2.33** Therefore, considering the feedback received, it is proposed that we adjust the target from 5% to 7.5% canopy cover, over the course of The Strategy.

Theme 6: User Groups

- 2.34** Another key theme raised was the need for the authority to proactively engage with local user groups and residents. The Neighbourhood Services team and the Countryside Team currently work closely with such groups in relation to environmental projects and ideas, that include arboricultural elements.
- 2.35** These include significant contributions from Penarth Civic Society, The Penarth Tree Forum, Barry Action for Nature, Replant Rhoose, Friends of Victoria Square plus Town and Community Councils.
- 2.36** This proactive dialogue, outcomes and physical assistance that these groups contribute cannot be overestimated and these partnerships will continue and flourish.
- 2.37** A key objective within the Draft Tree Strategy is to develop community involvement in tree related issues, including opportunities for grant aided funding. It is envisaged that this would also include schools and businesses.
- 2.38** Committee is asked to note the comments received and the revisions made and to agree the subsequent final draft version of the Tree Strategy 2024/2039, attached at Appendix C.
- 2.39** Any comments or suggested amendment to the final draft will also be recorded and passed to Cabinet for its consideration prior to seeking final adopting the Strategy.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** **Long term** - The Tree Strategy sets out an approach to the management of trees that responds to short term issues of health and safety matters associated with trees in a way that undertakes works to promote the long-term health of trees. The Strategy highlights the value that trees provide to the Vale of Glamorgan and proposes an approach towards planting of further tree stock for longer terms benefits.

- 3.2 Prevention** – The recent I-Tree assessment highlighted the deficiencies of canopy cover across the Vale of Glamorgan and the need to improve connectivity. The improved maintenance of trees to reduce their failure rates by ensuring healthier trees.
- 3.3 Collaboration** – It will be necessary for Officers to work with private developers and private landowners to encourage increased tree planting to assist with improving the tree canopy. Officers will also work with voluntary organisations to help manage its tree stock and seek external funding opportunities to both better maintain the existing stock and increase new tree planting.
- 3.4 Integration** – A cross Council project team has worked together to date to develop the Tree Strategy in recognition that the management of Vale of Glamorgan Council tree stock does not fall to a single department. Going forward, training will be provided to members of staff to increase the awareness of sustainable tree management.
- 3.5 Involvement** - The tree strategy highlights the need to work with local communities to develop partnerships for future tree planting schemes and maintenance. In addition, we would look at third party organisations and government departments to develop funding opportunities.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** The Tree Strategy represents an important vision for trees in the Vale of Glamorgan area and is a vital part of the Council's response to the Climate Change and Environmental Emergency declaration.
- 4.2** The core principles and delivery mechanisms detailed within the Strategy, will help mitigate our changing climate by absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere, create shade and shelter thus keeping our urban areas cool and increase our resilience to flooding.
- 4.3** The Strategy will also seek to safeguard existing habitats and, through additional planting, trees will also create more, better, joined up habitat. As such, the Strategy also links to the Council's Biodiversity forward plan.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** In order to fully implement the tree strategy there is a requirement to provide two additional posts, these being an Arboricultural Manager post and a Tree Preservation Officer post.
- 5.2** An Arboricultural Manager has been appointed, and initially charged against Ash Die Back reserves but this will now have to be funded from the Neighbourhood Services and Transport revenue budget. Funding has not yet been identified for a Tree Preservation Officer, but this remains an aspiration for the future.

- 5.3** The current tree maintenance revenue budget for Parks and Highway trees (not including Country parks) is £127.354k. This funding can be supplemented with Neighbourhood Services and Transport Asset renewal funding and other sources of capital funding. However, this was not possible in 2023/24 due to other competing demands, namely highway resurfacing. Unless the Asset Renewal allocation for Neighbourhood Services and transport is increased for 2024/25 this position is unlikely to change.
- 5.4** In addition, the service spent circa £75k from reserves dealing with the ongoing problem of Ash Die-Back and this work will need to continue for several years. A 2025/26 cost pressure will be submitted for this additional work, for consideration.
- 5.5** To assist with supporting the Tree Strategy, two capital bids have been secured for 2024/25 and for a total of 5-years, totalling £175k per annum. £75k of this funding is for cyclical tree reduction and pollarding and £100k is for planting and maintaining new trees.
- 5.6** All Council departments that manage land will need to make provision to manage trees on their land in accordance with The Strategy, with key targets added to each department's annual performance indicators.
- 5.7** Responsibility for trees on school land rests with the School and its Governing Body. All schools will however be encouraged to sign up the principles of the Tree Strategy.
- 5.8** It is recognised that the Council's financial position is extremely challenging and is likely to remain so. Therefore, all forms of external grant funding will be investigated to support The Strategy. In addition, Town and Community Councils, voluntary and private sector organisations and private individuals will be encouraged to increase their tree planting efforts.

Employment

- 5.9** An Arboricultural Manager post has recently been created to help deliver the Tree Strategy action plan.
- 5.10** There is a future aspiration to create a Tree Preservation Officer post should suitable funding become available.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.11** There are no direct legal implications arising from the activities detailed within this report, but activities undertaken in response to the climate change emergency will be consistent with duties under the Environment Act and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

6. Background Papers

None

Draft Tree Strategy

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

25 January 2024 - 18 April 2024

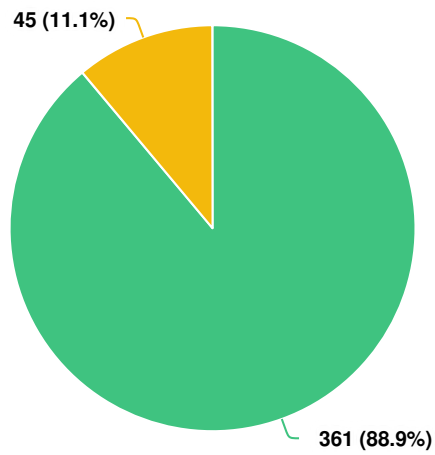
PROJECT NAME:

Draft Tree Strategy



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 | Do you think the Council is right to focus resources on protecting and managing its existing tree stock?



Question options

- Yes
- No

Optional question (406 response(s), 2 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q2 Please add any comments

Anonymous

1/25/2024 03:14 PM

Great idea, start to look after whats left.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 03:54 PM

There are many beautiful oak trees on private land (gardens and public areas) on the Pencoedre estate. There needs to be a survey of said trees and they need to, where possible be protected too.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 03:56 PM

Trees are essential for nature and biodiversity

Anonymous

1/25/2024 04:08 PM

This should be a priority both environmentally and aesthetically.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 04:10 PM

Bit late but yes

Anonymous

1/25/2024 04:17 PM

I'd like to see an easy tool for residents to report cases of suspicious/unauthorised damage to trees/hedges.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 04:19 PM

Lack of trees is very concerning.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 04:33 PM

However maybe not a priority.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 05:26 PM

We can't have too many trees

Anonymous

1/25/2024 05:48 PM

No point in planting any new trees if the existing ones aren't properly maintained. And once new trees are planted, financial provision needs to be made to ensure that they in turn are properly maintained.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 08:14 PM

We should all do what we can to maintain and increase the current trees and add more diversity and indigenous and disease resistant varieties.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 08:53 PM

Too many mature trees & hedgerows are being lost due to development on farmland. planning dept should now allow developers to destroy existing and state they will replant, they must agree to build around existing habitats.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 09:35 PM

The health of the trees of the Vale of Glamorgan has been neglected for too long. A firm strategy needs to be developed for preserving our trees.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 10:00 PM

It would be helpful to highlight and make more visible, the process for applying for tree protection. We have lost several mature trees in Colwinston that should have been protected.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 10:23 PM

Require for breath and beauty

Anonymous

1/26/2024 11:35 AM

The VoGC need to protect existing trees and hedgerows at the proposed site of Lower Cosmeston Farm which is planned to have 600 house and two schools built on land that could be used as a woodland for our current and future generations.

Anonymous

1/26/2024 12:32 PM

A massively important, yet vulnerable part of our local environment.

Anonymous

1/26/2024 01:30 PM

However development seems always to involve cutting down old trees or decimating the wild land that has lots of birds and wild life on. The proposed development around the bay will be tragic for trees and wild life.w

Anonymous

1/26/2024 01:31 PM

Trees are extremely important to the environment

Anonymous

1/26/2024 05:08 PM

Existing trees are extremely valuable for climate change

Anonymous

1/26/2024 05:12 PM

Too many trees have already been felled. It's vital to replenish and maintain existing trees and to plant more trees to increase tree stock.

Anonymous

1/27/2024 01:28 PM

Trees provide a more beautiful and healthier environment for everyone as well as helping the

Anonymous

1/28/2024 02:17 PM

There are not enough trees on streets

Anonymous

1/28/2024 02:22 PM

The trees are a very important part of the ecosystem, prevent flooding, contribute to biodiversity and help maintaining our overall well-being and mental health.

Anonymous

1/30/2024 03:24 PM

I am shocked at the number of trees that have been removed throughout the Vale.

Anonymous

1/30/2024 04:48 PM

Good for the planet

Anonymous

1/30/2024 04:58 PM

Without trees of all ages flora and fauna is impacted and environmentally it is lovely to see nature around us in the parks and streets.

Anonymous

1/30/2024 05:14 PM

Existing adult trees should be managed and encouraged as well as planting new trees.

Anonymous

1/30/2024 06:48 PM

Tree's are for life not just to look nice

Anonymous

1/30/2024 07:22 PM

Numerous trees felled by Council (and others) never replaced - costs ?

Anonymous

1/30/2024 07:46 PM

It is vital to look after our current tree stock , particularly our mature large trees but I also think it's very important to replace any street trees that come down for any reason .

Anonymous

1/30/2024 09:05 PM

Trees are important

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:12 AM

I like to see well managed mature trees

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:54 AM

You intend to decimate both trees and hedgerow on the proposed 450 home development to the North West of Rhoose - preach what

you state and cease this crazy proposal.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 10:36 AM

We need more street trees.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 10:46 AM

Trees are important for habitat, green lungs and making towns more environmentally greener.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 12:01 PM

We should also plant trees around the local areas. A lot of streets have no trees at all.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 12:09 PM

Tree cover and protecting current woodland is essential to maintain biodiversity and help the climate emergency issues.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 12:50 PM

Q1 is a leading question. With the caveat that you should also add to the stock

Anonymous

1/31/2024 01:04 PM

And in addition it must focus on growing the proportion of tree cover in urban spaces

Anonymous

1/31/2024 01:20 PM

ALL priorities should have the climate emergency at the centre of decisions

Anonymous

1/31/2024 03:53 PM

We.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 04:43 PM

Yes, the existing resource of more mature trees potentially has more importance for biodiversity, newly planted trees will take decades, even centuries in some cases, to acquire similar value.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:04 PM

Disgusting the latest build railway road where it's nothing but a concrete jungle! Shameful how it was approved!

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:06 PM

We have has some trees cut down locally and they really make a difference . They are missed

Anonymous

Managing existing trees would be a good start

1/31/2024 06:09 PM

Anonymous

Should plant more though

1/31/2024 06:13 PM

Anonymous

More trees the better.

1/31/2024 06:34 PM

Anonymous

Trees need protecting, especially from new LDP housing

1/31/2024 06:34 PM

Anonymous

Our money could be going to more important issues like more policing etc

1/31/2024 06:42 PM

Anonymous

It should expand the area where trees can be planted.

1/31/2024 06:47 PM

Anonymous

They should protect and maintain existing stock but also plant more and I would like to see them enforce tree planting for new build estates. Builders have to provide children's play parks on new build estates so there should be minimum tree/hedge plantin

1/31/2024 07:11 PM

Anonymous

The Council has a responsibility to ensure they do as much as possible to address the environmental crisis we are facing

1/31/2024 07:13 PM

Anonymous

There's lots of productive farmland that should be planted with trees

1/31/2024 07:19 PM

Anonymous

Yes but they should also focus on planting more trees

1/31/2024 07:23 PM

Anonymous

we need to keep the tree's healthy

1/31/2024 07:28 PM

Anonymous

The council need to plant more trees

1/31/2024 07:30 PM

Anonymous

Protecting the tree stock, particularly in built up areas is essential for managing urban heat island affects and providing shade to pedestrians during the summer months. As well as encouraging and supporting biodiversity all year round.

1/31/2024 07:47 PM

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:51 PM

Tree canopy cover is even more important than ever before.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 08:19 PM

Not enough being done to protect trees/hedges/wildlife and nature

Anonymous

1/31/2024 08:42 PM

There isn't enough "existing tree stock" as it is

Anonymous

1/31/2024 09:06 PM

We need more trees

Anonymous

1/31/2024 09:09 PM

This does not go far enough. We urgently need to increase the number of trees

Anonymous

1/31/2024 09:27 PM

Also plant more trees where they are scarce

Anonymous

1/31/2024 09:50 PM

Some roadside trees would be good. Station road in Rhoose has just had shrubs put into the verges ..maybe trees would be good.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 10:02 PM

We are losing so many trees, especially old established ones one patch of grass on the main Road going through rhoose because the park which is locked at times we are very worried they will be replaced by immature sapling if they are allowed to build ther

Anonymous

2/01/2024 06:22 AM

Particularly street trees and replacement

Anonymous

2/01/2024 08:11 AM

It must be a priority to maintain old trees and plant new ones, especially along roadsides to improve the quality of life in Barry. It improves air quality, brings in more wildlife, and having more nature is so important for mental health.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 08:30 AM

Trees are essential for the environment- nature, wellbeing, flood defense etc

Anonymous

And adding to it. The council also needs to think about the effect on

2/01/2024 09:46 AM

climate when considering destroying wildflower meadows to erect warehouses

Anonymous

2/01/2024 09:48 AM

We have dead trees outside our garden fence, on Council land, in which one blew down with high winds and landed on Garden Office roof. I did report to Council last year but heard nothing back.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 10:19 AM

Trees are important for the environment

Anonymous

2/01/2024 10:30 AM

The natural world should be protected and biodiversity improved

Anonymous

2/01/2024 10:56 AM

Trees , especially mature trees make a massive positive difference to the look of a community as well as people`s mood and well being.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 02:19 PM

It's good for our wellbeing and environment

Anonymous

2/01/2024 03:24 PM

Especially in existing woodlands and parks

Anonymous

2/01/2024 07:44 PM

Also, additional habitats should be protected as a lot of insects need both trees, shrubs, brambles and wild flowers to breed and feed.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 08:25 PM

We have, especially in Rhoose, a diabolical green/tree/canopy coverage.

Anonymous

2/02/2024 07:14 AM

We could do with planting more trees to help the environment

Anonymous

2/02/2024 08:19 AM

More trees needed to replace tress felled with Ash die back

Anonymous

2/02/2024 12:44 PM

Far too much green space being turned over to residential development with no biodiversity balance.

Anonymous

2/02/2024 09:09 PM

Yes, of course. However, cutting down older trees and survivor ash trees should not be the first port of call. Pollarding can be beneficial

for ash trees and this can encourage disease resistance.

Anonymous

2/02/2024 09:20 PM

More trees in under utilised areas, would like to see apple/ fruit trees freely planted to encourage foraging and people's connections with nature.

Anonymous

2/02/2024 10:34 PM

Yes, the VOG has so little woodland.

Anonymous

2/02/2024 11:03 PM

Continued environmental protection is essential and trees play a crucial part in this.

Anonymous

2/03/2024 09:38 AM

We need to protect the trees we have & stop just replanting whips that end up dying

Anonymous

2/03/2024 11:54 AM

We need more trees!

Anonymous

2/03/2024 12:30 PM

They are the filter for our air!!

Anonymous

2/04/2024 07:59 AM

Trees counteract carbon monoxide. Very important in these days of global warming.

Anonymous

2/04/2024 08:14 AM

Managed trees also need to be managed under TPO so they can be pollarded and maintained in best condition

Anonymous

2/04/2024 05:18 PM

Add new trees

Anonymous

2/04/2024 09:40 PM

Plant more trees, replace the ones that you have allowed to be cut down

Anonymous

2/05/2024 09:09 AM

The council are hypocritical as they intend to fell many trees as part of their housing development plan.

Anonymous

2/05/2024 04:55 PM

Important not to cut down existing trees as far as possible

Anonymous

2/05/2024 08:54 PM

Should focus, but unfortunately not protecting the existing tree stock i through unnecessary overdevelopment.

Anonymous

2/05/2024 11:29 PM

Yes but no -- there are so many empty fields that yearn to be filled with trees. The UK needs to plant hundreds of millions of trees to meet net zero targets, so the Vale also needs to plant/incentivize landowners to plant ASAP.

Anonymous

2/06/2024 01:27 PM

This is very important for a range of reasons, primarily, responding to the climate and nature emergencies but also to allow for the mental and physical health and wellbeing benefits.

Anonymous

2/06/2024 09:05 PM

Protection and management of existing trees needs to continue but there will always be losses of trees which must be replaced. The overall lack of canopy throughout the Vale also needs addressing. It's well documented how trees aid everyone's wellbeing.

Anonymous

2/07/2024 01:36 AM

The current tree stock is not being well preserved

Anonymous

2/07/2024 11:35 AM

Trees play a strong role in benefiting mental health

Anonymous

2/07/2024 05:11 PM

Stop cutting down trees for housing developments

Anonymous

2/08/2024 08:46 AM

Trees along streets need careful selection, far too many are too large for the location and are poorly maintained and causing damage to pavements, roads and more importantly private property!!

Anonymous

2/08/2024 03:19 PM

We need to look after our health ..environment ...and the planet.

Anonymous

2/08/2024 03:19 PM

Lets work for a green Vale of Glamorgan

Anonymous

2/13/2024 09:58 PM

Not all trees needed to be conserved. Very large street tree need to be replaced id causing obstruction to pavements

Anonymous

2/14/2024 09:05 AM

why do you keep cutting trees down?

Anonymous

2/17/2024 04:43 PM

We are in a climate emergency, we need to look after all our trees.

Anonymous

2/18/2024 01:31 PM

It needs to plant more. I am seeing trees cut throughout the community by households, organisations and such. The council needs to lead an add more.

Anonymous

2/18/2024 02:33 PM

Council under financial pressure. This isn't important

Anonymous

2/18/2024 04:47 PM

You don't MANAGE the existing stock - you just let it grow more and more! I have a tree outside my house that is taller than my house. When I asked the you to top it off you refused. I even offered to have a new tree planted that wouldn't grow so tall.

Anonymous

2/18/2024 07:19 PM

They got no money as it it allegedly?

Anonymous

2/18/2024 09:28 PM

Not necessarily on farmland

Anonymous

2/18/2024 09:59 PM

But you aren't.. you are cutting trees down all over Penarth streets and not replacing them.. once tree lined streets are not bare!

Anonymous

2/19/2024 09:06 AM

Stop building houses on green, tree filled sites

Anonymous

2/19/2024 04:01 PM

But not to the detriment of farm land

Anonymous

2/19/2024 08:21 PM

Absoluttly. Trees are essential for carbon sequestration and oxygen

Anonymous

2/20/2024 09:45 AM

Protected tree have been cut WITHOUT planning permission at Bolton House ,Bonvilston.Any action by the council?

Anonymous

Trees are vital to the landscape

2/20/2024 01:52 PM

Anonymous

2/20/2024 07:33 PM

Protect what we have and stop cutting trees down. Most trees in Barry, Llantwit and Cowbridge have been destroyed on council whim

Anonymous

2/21/2024 01:14 PM

Trees are a vital part of our eco system

Anonymous

2/23/2024 10:09 PM

Huge decline in trees in Barry. Lots of beheaded trucks all over the town. Accommodate the tree, mature trees cannot be replaced they take generations to be established.

Anonymous

2/24/2024 07:58 AM

Yes as mature/established trees are more resilient than saplings, but if they are causing other issues then some reduction or removal should be considered as well as new planting

Anonymous

2/26/2024 07:42 AM

It they don't listen to public opinion. Should take notice of themselves and stop building on every scrap of land. Cosmeston for one, a beautiful habitat being destroyed.

Anonymous

2/28/2024 02:24 PM

It's tragic seeing so many streets with stumps of once stunning large trees that were cut down rather than managed & not replaced. Also, local nature groups have done exceptional work planting saplings which have been cut down when grass mowing by council

Anonymous

2/29/2024 01:41 PM

To also plant new trees, especially in areas where they have been culled ie for ash die back

Anonymous

2/29/2024 03:52 PM

The Council should protect and manage existing stock, but should also allocate resources for planting to replenish existing stock, as well as new planting - with a focus on providing shade in built up areas to mitigate against warmer temperatures

Anonymous

3/01/2024 03:30 PM

Any trees that are lost affect the wellbeing of all

Anonymous

3/03/2024 02:58 PM

Council never places a lost street tree in the street that suffers the loss. Council must approach and listen to community views regarding trees and engage community support in protecting new planted trees.

Anonymous

3/04/2024 06:42 AM

Trees lining streets are a benefit to nature, preventing climate change and the mental wellbeing of the towns population. A tree was taken down on my street (Redbrink Crescent) the stump remains. Another three such stumps are in Breaksea Drive. Replaced??

Anonymous

3/05/2024 09:42 AM

Of course, Tree stock is a communal asset of the region under the management of the council. Therefore it is fundamental that resources are made available to manage that asset.

Anonymous

3/07/2024 11:42 PM

needs to focus on replacing street trees it has felled over the last two decades

Anonymous

3/11/2024 04:29 PM

Particularly on kerb sides, parks and. Public gardens. gardens

Anonymous

3/14/2024 09:40 PM

No trees and biodiversity = humans!

Anonymous

3/15/2024 02:19 PM

too many trees pruned unnecessarily or too drastically

Anonymous

3/17/2024 08:37 PM

And to plant more trees on its land, and to encourage residents, farmers and landowners to plant more trees.

Anonymous

3/18/2024 05:11 PM

Trees play such a vital role in carbon sequestration and cooling both of which will become more important in the future..

Anonymous

3/19/2024 07:03 PM

We as human beings need trees to survive plus they provide habitat for animals,birds and insects.

Anonymous

3/19/2024 11:57 PM

yes for protecting this is a very open question on managing!

Anonymous

3/20/2024 08:53 AM

Trees can regenerate no need for more planting

Anonymous

3/20/2024 09:27 AM

Please plant more trees over Barry waterfront and Cadoxton main street here street

Anonymous

3/28/2024 10:40 AM

Vital in a climate emergency

Anonymous

3/28/2024 01:00 PM

It is about time. Disgraceful management of trees. Someone hates them obviously

Anonymous

4/02/2024 10:18 AM

focus must be on the long term with our and the planets enviroment future in mind, not quick temporary fixes that do not help future generations. y patch ups that do humans and the environments

Anonymous

4/09/2024 07:28 PM

Good for the environment and attractive for residents and visitors alike.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 07:54 PM

There needs to be new planting too.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 07:57 PM

Trees do need to be managed before they become dangerous or unstable

Anonymous

4/09/2024 08:28 PM

Trees are the main source of breathing fresh air, exploring and learning

Anonymous

4/09/2024 08:34 PM

But they don't

Anonymous

4/09/2024 10:12 PM

Mature trees should be preserved as they provide great habit. Replacing with young saplings surrounded by grass in isolation provides little habitat for wildlife. Woods and hedges with undergrowth and a canopy provides much better habitat

Anonymous

4/09/2024 11:36 PM

Trick question

Anonymous

4/10/2024 02:17 AM

Why not focus on education, NHS etc instead of this rubbish. Also can you post results to this survey as well as doing an open survey on other areas such as social services.

Anonymous

Leave cosmeston Farm alone

4/10/2024 06:58 AM

Anonymous

4/10/2024 07:13 AM

What little funds we have should be allocated to what really needs them,health service,infrastructure etc, not to something that will in effect make no difference to the world's climate.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 07:26 AM

Protection of trees is important but needs to be focussed alongside other priorities and should not take precedent over key deliverables including road management

Anonymous

4/10/2024 07:28 AM

Try planting more trees instead of building houses on our green spaces

Anonymous

4/10/2024 08:22 AM

However, the trees removed next to the railway line in Llantwit Major is not in line with your focus.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:34 AM

Stop chopping down trees

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:56 AM

Although, exactly what "managing existing tree stock" means, isn't clear. And, TfW did a great job of butchering all the trees to leave a stark eyesore all around the train tracks in VOG. Surely VOG should have prevented that?

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:02 AM

Trees have been here a lot longer than we have. Let nature deal with them naturally.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:07 AM

They cannot upkeep the trees we already have. Maybe going back to training horticultural and arborist apprentices would be more beneficial

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:48 AM

We need as many trees as possible too regenerate soil and to purify the oxygen we breathe

Anonymous

4/10/2024 11:02 AM

Please stick to taking bribes and leave the country side to farmers

Anonymous

4/10/2024 11:12 AM

Silly question

Anonymous

4/10/2024 11:35 AM

Protect existing trees rather than decimate them along railway line, saplings take years to grow to full height.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:01 PM

no trees will manage as they have done since roman times

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:34 PM

There there plenty of natural woodlands àaround and more important things to spend time and resources on.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:47 PM

Get rid of 20mph blanket

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:58 PM

The where I live in Southerndown has little tree cover. Hedgegrows are shorn so no potential new trees emerge, unlike the Elm strewn lanes of the past. Farms used to be valued with hedge grow trees referred to as Standing Wood. Sadly no longer

Anonymous

4/10/2024 02:59 PM

Tree planting should not be viewed on its own. Councils should be award and focus on the Climate Action Plan for Councils document. It is too easy to focus on planting a from trees on one hand and digging up the countryside with the other. Act Now

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:42 PM

I'm fed up with seeing old trees being cut down in the night with the same old excuse - they're diseased or it's a health & safety issue!! Penarth is being ruined by the council, its becoming a concrete. They re-plant young trees but in green areas only.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:50 PM

Focus on the bigger issues: Roads/Doctors/schools/crime. Simple.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:58 PM

There are many more important issues that need financing and addressing

Anonymous

4/10/2024 04:34 PM

They have to ensure that the area being planted is suitable for the number of trees being planted.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 04:42 PM

They should stop building houses on green fields to protect the trees and hedgerows.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 04:44 PM

You keep chopping them down to build more houses. Also why are you cutting all the trees down by the railway lines, are you planting more?

Anonymous

4/10/2024 04:50 PM

Stop cutting trees down

Anonymous

4/10/2024 05:26 PM

It's just a shame that you bang on about protecting trees but are quite happy to cut them down to build new houses which are not wanted and the hedge on Fort Road, that should never have been cut down. The hypocrisy is off the scale.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 05:59 PM

There are more than enough trees in Wales

Anonymous

4/10/2024 07:45 PM

Though I don't agree with cutting them down to manage and making them bare like the ones in cowbridge they look awful and will take years to get back to how they were, also southerndown gate should never have been cut down like that, looks awful

Anonymous

4/10/2024 08:15 PM

Yes, existing trees provide important habitat, shelter and nesting sites for insects and birds as well as shade and well being for humans

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:29 PM

Trees are important and their protection and the maintenance of them on public owned land should be part of the Councils job, there is no need to focus resources at a time when they are scarce.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:32 PM

Stop cutting down trees for so many housing estates.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:33 PM

Maintenance of existing woodlands is critical

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:42 PM

Let the trees take care of things.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:03 PM

When the day comes that you've sorted everything else out for the normal people, then you can take on other nicities. Until then please stop wasting our money.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:32 PM

Councils should not cut down trees for 5g and should grow more trees.

Anonymous

4/11/2024 01:06 AM

Proportionality should be the key word, focus on what the people want first, then consider what to do with left over money, stop taking from the taxpayers to fund minority pet projects.

Anonymous

4/11/2024 08:57 AM

Trees help pollinators, help counteract carbon emissions, provide shade and make the place look much better.

Anonymous

4/11/2024 05:45 PM

There are more urgent things to spend money on like pot holes!

Anonymous

4/12/2024 09:26 AM

Trees are very important for reducing flood impacts, providing habitats for insects, birds and mammals, absorbing Co2 and enhancing public spaces.

Anonymous

4/12/2024 07:02 PM

Yes, and also on protecting trees on land owned or managed by other public services. For example, national rail has deforested an entire stretch of the railway through the Vale of Glamorgan, removing all trees citing ash dieback, even though not

Anonymous

4/13/2024 10:08 AM

Tree planting should have been mandatory and conditional on every new housing development over last 30 years. THIS IS NOT A NEW CONCEPT

Anonymous

4/14/2024 12:57 PM

The Council has a wider leadership role in response to the Climate and Nature emergencies. The Strategy should cover all trees across the Vale. Wider community involvement is needed in both the final drafting and the delivery of the Action Plan.

Anonymous

4/14/2024 09:25 PM

This tree strategy is very welcome and extremely important- in light of the twin crises facing the world of the climate and nature emergency: protecting and managing EXISTING trees is vital- older mature trees offer immense value, more than new small trees

Anonymous

4/14/2024 11:44 PM

Trees are important for wildlife and for human health and wellbeing.

Anonymous

4/15/2024 01:41 PM

Trees provide many benefits to our environment & its inhabitants, including humans. They help with soil erosion, flood management, carbon emissions, biodiversity, heat control & our own wellbeing. So few people realise this.

Anonymous

4/15/2024 04:50 PM

Existing trees make up the majority of the tree canopy. Newly planted trees will make a significant contribution eventually but not for at least a decade. Mature trees regenerate the tree stock by seeding and suckering and support biodiversity.

Anonymous

4/15/2024 06:16 PM

Focus on important front line services and a reduction in Council tax

Anonymous

4/16/2024 03:29 PM

Far too many urban trees have been removed by the Council, often on grounds that don't stand up to scrutiny.

Anonymous

4/17/2024 08:12 AM

The council needs to be more active in planting street trees to replace the ones lost

Anonymous

4/17/2024 09:06 AM

Important for character of Penarth

Anonymous

4/17/2024 05:14 PM

Street trees have been removed from penarth at an alarming rate. Focus must be on reinstalling these in st Augustine's area.

Anonymous

4/17/2024 07:28 PM

there should be a policy to replace trees felled for some reason eg for building redevelopment, replace trees damaged by storms etc, trees that have died eg due to ash die back

Anonymous

4/17/2024 07:59 PM

Lots of trees are just left untended for an example is the vast number of trees being strangled with Ivy. Trees have to grow taller quicker which results in premature death of the tree.

Anonymous

4/17/2024 10:28 PM

Please protect and manage our urban trees more sympathetically with crown restoration, not hastening their demise by pollarding back to the knuckle

Anonymous

Maintenance of some of the existing mature roadside tree stock has

4/18/2024 07:10 AM

been sadly lacking in past years, resulting in overgrowth and significantly hazardous disruption to pavements

Anonymous

4/18/2024 03:10 PM

The Council has a wider leadership role also. The Strategy should also include a focus on expanding its tree stock. also cover all trees across the Vale. Wider community involvement is needed in both the final drafting and the delivery of the Action Plan.

Anonymous

4/18/2024 07:52 PM

Yes. This response is from GPG an environmental charity and community group based in Penarth. Trees have many benefits for Penarth. They are an essential component of our urban ecosystems, they help to sustain life, promote well-being and have economic b

Anonymous

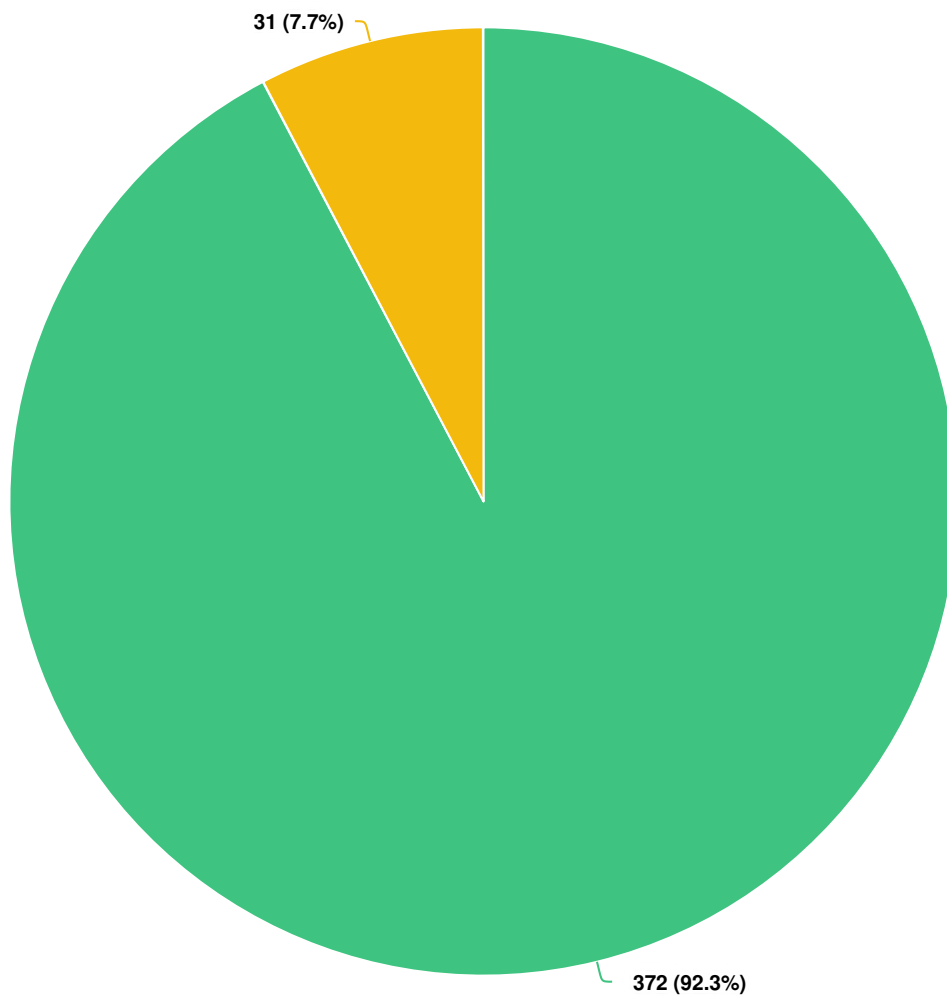
4/18/2024 09:23 PM

However some of the ways tree stock is managed is slightly dubious - I am no tree expert but surely you don't agree that a very well pollarded tree is a good look. Also why leave a 4-5 foot stump when taking down a tree - remove entirely is surely better

Optional question (209 response(s), 199 skipped)

Question type: Single Line Question

Q3 | The Council is responsible for trees not only on Council land (parks, gardens and schools), but also for roadside trees, trees on development sites and protected tress. The draft strategy proposes that the council should consider long term benefits of trees and other natural habitats in tackling the Nature and Climate emergencies. Do you agree with this approach?



Question options

- Agree
- Disagree

Optional question (403 response(s), 5 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q4 Please add any comments

Anonymous

1/25/2024 03:14 PM

Vital with the climate emergencies

Anonymous

1/25/2024 04:10 PM

Tree care is not obvious in the Vale

Anonymous

1/25/2024 04:17 PM

I fully agree

Anonymous

1/25/2024 08:53 PM

Restrict development on green spaces, look more closely at redevelopment on brownfield sites. Destruction on land adjacent to Ty Hafan on Hayes road could have been stopped I'd PaLanning dept had listened to public outrage and acted.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 09:35 PM

Trees have been proven to provide many benefits from cutting pollution and flooding to improving mental health. They should be regarded as a precious asset.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 10:00 PM

The council should be more aware of mature tree stands in its area, and the need for protection. Perhaps by setting up a register of such stands and highlighting level of risk?

Anonymous

1/25/2024 10:23 PM

This is extremely important

Anonymous

1/26/2024 11:35 AM

So why has the VoGC allowed hedgerows contain roosting bats and dormice to be ripped out for a new entrance to the proposed housing estate at Lower Cosmeston farm

Anonymous

1/26/2024 12:32 PM

Would feel even happier if Local Authorities were able to have a view in connection with all woodland, including privately owned, within the Local Authority area.

Anonymous

1/26/2024 01:30 PM

All between roads and school, houses, flats etc because trees cut down pollution from traffic.

Anonymous

1/26/2024 01:31 PM

Not only visually pleasing but they host a myriad of other species.

Anonymous

1/28/2024 02:17 PM

Contribution to bio diversity

Anonymous

1/28/2024 02:22 PM

It should be the councils responsibility to maintain and preserve the trees. These are an important part of our wellbeing and the environment.

Anonymous

1/30/2024 03:24 PM

Just manage the trees without over complicating things by joining the climate emergency lobby for this.

Anonymous

1/30/2024 04:48 PM

Looking at long term benefits of trees is a must

Anonymous

1/30/2024 05:14 PM

I mostly agree but please see comments below

Anonymous

1/30/2024 06:48 PM

But a new school next to me cut trees down. The council didn't want to now when we collectively got together to save them WHY

Anonymous

1/30/2024 07:22 PM

Actions are needed not idle words / promises

Anonymous

1/30/2024 07:46 PM

They are vitally important and the vale certainly needs to keep the momentum of planting more trees and finding local residents who are willing to take care of them. 😊

Anonymous

1/30/2024 09:05 PM

100%agree but how does this policy link with the proposed Model farm development

Anonymous

1/30/2024 09:47 PM

If the strategy is adopted it must be acted uon and not pushed to one side when it suits the Council.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:12 AM

Why is this not presently considered?

Anonymous

From what I see you dont carry out your protection in line with your

1/31/2024 07:54 AM

liabilities. As a council you are shocking, saying one thing, doing another!

Anonymous

1/31/2024 10:20 AM

Planting the right tree in the right place can have many and varied benefits.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 10:46 AM

Other ways identify champion trees offer residents trees for their gardens where appropriate

Anonymous

1/31/2024 12:50 PM

I agree but the council are not doing it. Not even abiding by their own rules for mitigating tree felling.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 03:05 PM

Any fallen, dead or disease trees should be replaced with new

Anonymous

1/31/2024 03:53 PM

We need trees for our insects birds and wildlife.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 04:43 PM

This is essential.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 05:52 PM

I agree with the approach, but I disagree with the statement about climate crisis.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:06 PM

We need to keep as much of our natural resources as we can

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:13 PM

Does that mean they will manage trees on new housing estates where they pay a management charge?

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:25 PM

Please ensure they are maintained and also do not impact on footpaths- some awful footways in Barry and Penarth affected by roots.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:28 PM

A focus needs to be placed upon the importance of protecting hedgerow continuity particularly with regard to planning decisions.

Anonymous

More trees please

1/31/2024 06:47 PM

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:07 PM

It's good to hear that this includes development sites as this is where so much planting is in its infancy. The Taylor Wimpey estate in Rhoose - Golwg yr Mor is a typical example of zero community engagement and poor tree care.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:11 PM

Trees are being cut down and not replaced.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:13 PM

There are lots of missed opportunities for rewinding. The Council need to stop agreeing to sell off green land for development and look at brown field sites first.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:47 PM

I fully agree and endorse planting trees particularly in built up areas. This will have a very positive effect on resident's well being as well as supporting biodiversity in built up areas.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 08:42 PM

There may not be enough trees but looking after old stock and a also of great importance

Anonymous

1/31/2024 09:09 PM

Why does the council need to consider the benefits? Huge amount of existing data proves this

Anonymous

1/31/2024 09:27 PM

I do think developers should be responsible for planting and looking after trees on new developments

Anonymous

1/31/2024 10:02 PM

Many benefits to trees besides obvious health and wellbeing for humans animals, environment , they can change the whole ambience of a neighbourhood

Anonymous

1/31/2024 11:09 PM

The vale council are hypocrites, keep saying about green wales and then are willing to let Model Farm be developed

Anonymous

2/01/2024 08:11 AM

If we are to change the way we manage our environments, it needs to change on all scales, and local change is really important

Anonymous

2/01/2024 09:48 AM

As above comment.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 10:19 AM

I totally agree with the above

Anonymous

2/01/2024 03:24 PM

Council need to remove the autumn leaf drop on roadsides to avoid black sludge and flooding. Otherwise remove roadside trees altogether.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 05:33 PM

I do agree but difficult when the council only employs one person to over see all the trees in the whole of the vale, poor man.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 07:44 PM

Yes, brown field sites should be assessed as to their value for wildlife in the context of the surrounding areas.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 08:25 PM

Silly question really when you consider what trees actually do for the air/environment/wildlife.

Anonymous

2/02/2024 12:44 PM

Unfortunately, what you say and what you actually do tends to be the opposites from observation.

Anonymous

2/02/2024 09:09 PM

So many trees along the road to St Nicolas as well as between Barry and Culverhouse Cross have been cut down. Why? These were not large and would not have been a safety issue. There is an overly cavalier approach to tree maintenance in the Vale already.

Anonymous

2/02/2024 10:34 PM

I would like to see more tree planting. Too many trees chopped down in e.g Porthkerry Park. Not enough trees in village and town centres.

Anonymous

2/03/2024 01:07 PM

Need to stop allowing removal of healthy trees in conservation area gardens as currently authorised

Anonymous

2/04/2024 08:14 AM

Same comment

Anonymous

2/04/2024 09:40 PM

I would sooner see money spent on protecting trees, planting trees and looking after the trees we have than spend money on car parks

Anonymous

Trees over that hang over carriageways and foot paths should be cut

2/05/2024 06:37 AM

back for safety

Anonymous

2/05/2024 08:54 PM

Unfortunately the Council is causing the destruction of trees and other natural habits in progressing overdevelopment in the area.

Anonymous

2/05/2024 11:29 PM

There has to be a broad strategy in place to ensure increased tree cover across the Vale on public and private land.

Anonymous

2/06/2024 01:27 PM

Strong agree for the reasons set out in response to question 2. Particularly in urban areas trees are important for biodiversity connectivity, providing urban cooling and facilitating a restorative environment for mental wellbeing

Anonymous

2/06/2024 09:05 PM

Further to my previous comments, health benefits of living closer to nature are very well documented. People of the Vale are generally keen to do their bit to tackle the nature and climate crises.

Anonymous

2/07/2024 11:35 AM

Trees in urban area's especially town centres provide shade and shelter which can mitigate temperature extremes. More trees of the right sort provide habitat and improve biodiversity

Anonymous

2/07/2024 05:11 PM

Ban fake grass

Anonymous

2/12/2024 06:46 PM

We really need to increase the coverage. And all new housing developments should be required to support the wider community with planting in the village and surrounding area.

Anonymous

2/13/2024 09:58 PM

whereever possible street trees should not be planted in pavements rather on the edge og the road so that cars park on either side.

Anonymous

2/14/2024 09:10 AM

Every street tree you cut down should be replaced. This has not happened in the street I live in.

Anonymous

2/17/2024 04:43 PM

The planet needs our help othwise humans will not survive.

Anonymous

Provide data that this will have a positive, measurable impact on the

2/18/2024 02:33 PM

lives of residents

Anonymous

2/18/2024 04:47 PM

Only if you have the spare money to do it without cutting back on other services

Anonymous

2/18/2024 07:19 PM

SFI already trying to impose rules in farmers that are unworkable and detrimental to agriculture in Wales

Anonymous

2/18/2024 08:35 PM

Why cut down trees and hedge on green land to build on when there are brown sites available. One example is on the docks.

Anonymous

2/18/2024 09:59 PM

More trees needed everywhere..

Anonymous

2/19/2024 09:06 AM

Stop chopping them down for housing

Anonymous

2/19/2024 04:01 PM

But they must be properly maintained and the ground beneath when the leaves fall

Anonymous

2/20/2024 07:33 PM

Yes, as long as you stop cutting trees down for development projects

Jane Motte

2/22/2024 04:29 PM

I have a particular interest in a site near to where I live (Waterfront Development) which would make an ideal site for some tree planting.

Anonymous

2/23/2024 10:09 PM

Why can't the public nominate their champion trees. Perhaps Barry could have a similar tree canopy to coebridge and penarth, the east of Barry has been much depleted in tree coverage. Unlike the West of Barry where there are many tree lined streets.

Anonymous

2/26/2024 07:42 AM

In practice it won't happen

Anonymous

2/28/2024 02:24 PM

We need to care for and replace our street trees to create green bridges for wildlife. Also adding in fruiting trees for the community to benefit from.

Anonymous

3/01/2024 03:30 PM

Particularly important to retain trees and wildlife areas on development sites to prevent them being taken away as part of the strategy. Also on educational sites such as schools as they provide a perfect learning space

Anonymous

3/03/2024 02:58 PM

Road side trees promote well-being, safety and reduce pollution. Road side trees are proven to slow traffic (see Bristol tree planting research).

Anonymous

3/04/2024 06:42 AM

Trees should be planted wherever possible. Why aren't they? Yes problem root damage to pavements and buildings. Then manage that! Copses in open fields and wherever possible.

Anonymous

3/04/2024 07:44 AM

Also call a pause on pollarding of trees on Barry roads

Anonymous

3/05/2024 09:42 AM

It would be irresponsible for the copuncil not to consider the long term benefits and would go against many policys, some set by itself.

Anonymous

3/07/2024 11:42 PM

The Council also has a say on trees in Conservation areas. Needs principles for a positive policy on maintaining these, , rather than the pretty meaningless advkceto plant a relacement.

Anonymous

3/11/2024 04:29 PM

God made trees and seasons for a reason! You only have to read up on the effect on our climate when trees have been removed to make way for profit. climate

Anonymous

3/15/2024 02:19 PM

front gardens for example

Anonymous

3/17/2024 08:37 PM

Street trees should be planted to restore the original Victorian street scene.

Anonymous

3/18/2024 05:11 PM

Trees are essential for tackling climate change and for trying to restore bio- diversity .

Anonymous

3/18/2024 07:46 PM

Trees are incredibly important for the environment and as Wales has recognised we are in a climate emergency, more trees should be planted and encouraged.

Anonymous

3/28/2024 01:00 PM

As above

Anonymous

4/02/2024 10:18 AM

Absolutely agree, otherwise all is doom and gloom for the future.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 07:57 PM

The planting of trees on roadside is not a priority for a climate emergency and this is just an example of jumping on a bandwagon

Anonymous

4/09/2024 08:27 PM

Roadside trees are never replaced what they reach end of life. Why? It's widely acknowledge the benefits on environment and in helping to manage our increasingly hot summer.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 08:28 PM

I do believe this is so, we should plant more trees along roadsides

Anonymous

4/09/2024 08:34 PM

This does not actually happen, and is total fabrication

Anonymous

4/09/2024 09:30 PM

There needs to be more regulation surrounding homeowners removing trees and hedgerows to build fences and walls.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 09:36 PM

Stop planting trees that grow 30+ feet on new developments which will impact negatively on the home owner down the line.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 10:12 PM

However this Council repeatedly grants planning permission to build houses on green field sites destroying mature trees and ripping up undergrowth despite the obvious damage to the environment and wildlife. You think planting a few saplings is ok.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 11:36 PM

Another trick question

Anonymous

4/10/2024 02:17 AM

How many trees will be taken down to build the proposed housing in Dinas Powys?

Anonymous

4/10/2024 06:58 AM

Leave cosmeston Farm alone

Anonymous

4/10/2024 07:26 AM

Yes, but needs to be done sensibly, cost effectively and aligned to cenhab

Anonymous

4/10/2024 07:28 AM

Do you mean the made up climate emergency to bleed us dry of our hard earned cash

Anonymous

4/10/2024 08:22 AM

I agree with the approach and urge you to put it in practice.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:56 AM

Please explain what this means, as the strategy does not make this clear. What happens if VOG decide not to consider the long term benefit and other natural habitat benefits of some trees over others? TfW have been allowed to destroy many healthy trees

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:02 AM

Let nature take its course and stop interfering.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:07 AM

Yes but train and pay people to do the job properly. Not just give a council worker a saw and tell them to look up tree management online! We need constant professionals doing the job

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:48 AM

Trees provide shelter for animals and habitats for wildlife and contribute too well being of humans

Anonymous

4/10/2024 11:02 AM

Stick to taking bribes from the WEF and leave the country side to farmers

Anonymous

4/10/2024 11:12 AM

Who is qualified in landscape design/appreciation, horticulture and arboriculture to oversee this?

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:01 PM

trees make zero benefit of your so called emergency

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:34 PM

I can answer your concerns in five minutes it does not need a council committee.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:47 PM

Do not remove any trees but please do remove the 20mph blanket

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:58 PM

Its essential that the Council is vigorous in its approach on this matter

Anonymous

4/10/2024 02:59 PM

Only as part of other strategies to help nature

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:18 PM

roadside cleaning not happening at the moment so leaves and branches will make footpaths dangerous

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:42 PM

More trees need planting in the town and stop cutting old trees.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:50 PM

Stupid question- of course.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:58 PM

What a stupid question... who is going to disagree with this approach. The question is do you have the finance to do this above Health, Education and Law and Order?

Anonymous

4/10/2024 04:34 PM

So many trees have been cut along roadsides and have not been replaced. The sane with the flower planting scheme that used to make the major roads in Barry look so welcoming and inviting for residents and visitors.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 04:44 PM

Stop cutting down to build more houses

Anonymous

4/10/2024 05:26 PM

Just a shame you're happy to cut them down when it suits your agenda but then in the next breath you bang on about climate change we're not stupid.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 05:59 PM

It's a false emergency

Anonymous

4/10/2024 06:40 PM

while i agree with keeping trees i don't think there is any such thing as a climate emergency. climate change is a natural process.

Anonymous

Are the council also obliged to look after Cem George woods in Dinas

4/10/2024 09:04 PM

Powys or is this the woodland trust? Would be useful if the Council were responsible.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:29 PM

Survley they do this already?

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:33 PM

The strategy is too Council focused. It should look at how the Council can be a catalyst and convenor for a whole range of groups and individuals. The Belfast example is one we should seek to emulate

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:42 PM

You have more urgent priorities

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:03 PM

Grassland is a far better for carbon sequestration. If this is genuinely about the climate, then encourage that.

Anonymous

4/11/2024 01:06 AM

Proportionality.

Anonymous

4/11/2024 08:57 AM

If the council doesn't, who will?

Anonymous

4/11/2024 05:45 PM

There are no climate emergencies it is all a scam to take money from us

Anonymous

4/12/2024 09:26 AM

See above.

Anonymous

4/12/2024 07:02 PM

The council should stop others from cutting trees as well

Anonymous

4/13/2024 10:08 AM

Model Farm has lots of trees!!??? I wholeheartedly agree with this statement - clearly our Councilors don't.

Anonymous

4/14/2024 12:57 PM

A much bolder and more ambitious strategic approach, bringing together private and voluntary sectors, is required. The Council is in an unique position to lead and direct all of those who can play a part in this critical care of our natural environment

Anonymous

4/14/2024 09:25 PM

ALL trees as well as wild spaces have huge value in helping mitigate the Nature and Climate emergencies, and the focus by the council on caring for these natural habitats is really fantastic.

Anonymous

4/15/2024 04:50 PM

The Council should work with transport, energy suppliers and developers to hold them accountable for tree management and tree protection. It is through joined up working and agreement that health, nature and climate emergencies can be addressed.

Anonymous

4/15/2024 06:16 PM

You don't bother with any of the trees in llantwit major other than the ones near the railway tracks so nothing will be different

Anonymous

4/16/2024 03:29 PM

The practice of extreme pollarding of mature trees removes the very benefit in climate and pollution control that the canopies of large trees provides.

Anonymous

4/17/2024 09:06 AM

As above.

Anonymous

4/17/2024 10:34 AM

The strategy should focus on people - their well-being - clean air and aesthetics of the environment. Trees would help with Dealing with surface water runoff and they have been shown to improve high street business. Other matters will follow.

Anonymous

4/17/2024 05:14 PM

Street trees have been removed from penarth at an alarming rate. Focus must be on reinstalling these in st Augustine's area.

Anonymous

4/17/2024 07:28 PM

what consideration is given to replacement of trees felled alongside railway lines and roads as these act as sound and visual barriers to improve the urban environment

Anonymous

4/17/2024 10:28 PM

As part of the Council's responsibility for roadside trees, please boost age diversity by introducing a rolling programme of nearby tree replacement for trees that fail

Anonymous

4/18/2024 03:10 PM

A much bolder and more ambitious strategic approach, bringing together private and voluntary sectors, is required. The Council is in an unique position to lead and direct all of those who can play a part in this critical care of our natural environment.

Anonymous

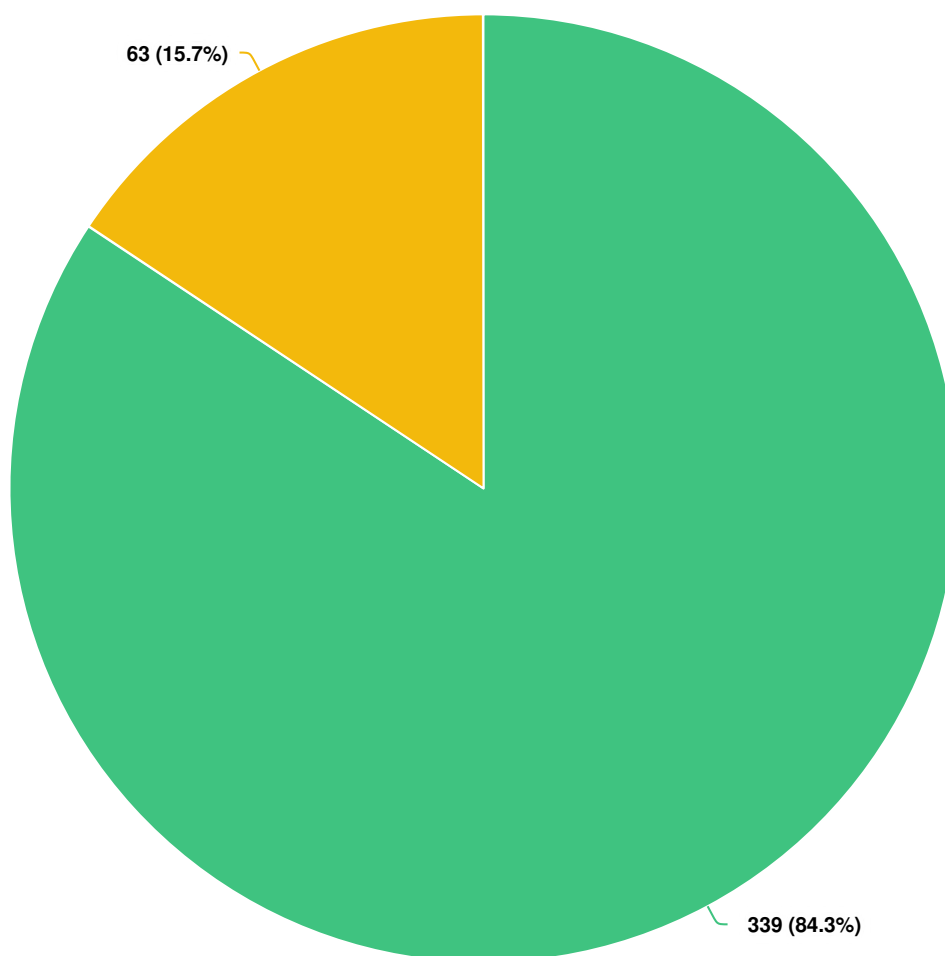
4/18/2024 07:52 PM

Trees encourage inward investment, improving the energy efficiency of buildings – as well as removing airborne pollutants and connecting people with nature. They can also mitigate the extremes of cl

Optional question (149 response(s), 259 skipped)

Question type: Single Line Question

Q5 The draft strategy suggests we should focus on tree planting initiatives in built up areas, and areas where there is less than 15% canopy cover as a priority. This would provide the greatest impact on the Climate and Nature emergency, whilst providing Well-being benefits for local people and businesses. Do you think that the Council should focus tree planting in these areas?



Question options

- Yes
- No

Optional question (402 response(s), 6 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q6 Please add any comments

Anonymous

1/25/2024 03:14 PM

Vital for the health of communities.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 03:54 PM

There need to be penalties for those who damage seedling trees which the council plants

Anonymous

1/25/2024 04:09 PM

The policy should state we should manage, preserve and existing stock before engaging in Council funded initiatives, external funding for new plants can be used. Trees on Park Rd and the Garden Suburb have been felled but no replacement provided.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 04:10 PM

Destruction of the towns trees/parks and gardens has been dreadful.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 04:17 PM

I fully agree

Anonymous

1/25/2024 04:33 PM

Not enough trees in new developments. Too many trees were cut down when building the new Clare garden village in Cowbridge

Anonymous

1/25/2024 05:26 PM

NC

Anonymous

1/25/2024 05:48 PM

See above.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 08:53 PM

More canopy cover in built up areas may provide shade & help decrease heat in summer whilst encouraging insects & birds. Encourage us to plant trees and bushes, we all seem to be cutting them down, Possibly cos they have become unmanageable

Anonymous

1/25/2024 09:35 PM

Our urban landscape in the Vale needs more trees. It compares badly with other urban areas elsewhere.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 10:00 PM

Planting new trees is fine, but there is a need to ensure that such trees are compatible with existing tree stocks with priority being given to replacing stands that have suffered through disease

Anonymous

1/25/2024 10:23 PM

Absolutely

Anonymous

1/26/2024 11:35 AM

Plant trees at lower Cosmeston farm site not 600 Houses with no infrastructure of G P Surgeries.Pharmacies etc

Anonymous

1/26/2024 12:32 PM

Again, all areas need to be kept under consideration and not taken for granted even though some areas may appear "alright" at any moment in time.

Anonymous

1/26/2024 01:30 PM

People will help protect the trees if they really want them in the immediate vicinity of there homes therefore consultants with local residents should be held first.

Anonymous

1/26/2024 01:31 PM

If trees are planted on housing estates/business areas, it would be helpful if leaves were collected when they fall in autumn.

Anonymous

1/26/2024 05:08 PM

It will be great to see trees planted on streets that currently have none

Anonymous

1/27/2024 01:28 PM

See first comment re health & environment benefits in built-up spaces

Anonymous

1/27/2024 04:41 PM

Trees ion built up areas are a lot more difficult and costly to plant and maintain. If you focussed on less built up areas you could plant more trees for the same cost thereby befitting the climate more.

Anonymous

1/28/2024 02:22 PM

The council have a duty to play their part in combatting flooding, loss of biodiversity and climate breakdown. We as residents are doing our part and so should the council.

Anonymous

1/30/2024 03:24 PM

Stop cutting down existing trees. Resources are being wasted 1) by felling trees unnecessarily and 2) then planting new trees that need years to grow significantly.

Anonymous

1/30/2024 04:48 PM

Trees take a long time to mature so we must keep up with the planting

Anonymous

1/30/2024 06:48 PM

We need to plant as many as we can

Anonymous

1/30/2024 07:22 PM

Look at number of trees in old photos of Barry is impressive- we had a Council who cared in those days

Anonymous

1/30/2024 07:46 PM

All the streets off Holton road, Barry used to have trees and I can remember all the birds singing from their branches. It would be fantastic to get back to that level of cover!

Anonymous

1/30/2024 08:18 PM

Would have thought there'd be more room to plant more trees in less built up areas, and less ongoing maintenance required for them.

Anonymous

1/30/2024 09:05 PM

Speak to TreeLady Rhoose, she is 3 years in front of tou5

Anonymous

1/30/2024 09:47 PM

So many different areas need to be covered by the strategy so don't over focus on any one area

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:54 AM

If you actually stopped ripping down trees and hedgrows in crazy housing developements, that would be a huge benefit.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 10:46 AM

Both trees in built up areas are as important as trees in the countryside., not just in Cowbridge, try Cadoxton Barry. More should be done to improve the tree canopy in Barry especially east of Holton Road.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 12:01 PM

We should also plant trees around the local areas. A lot of streets have no trees at all.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 12:09 PM

Tree planting on farms where the the land is being used effectively should not be an option when other suitable land is available.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 12:50 PM

The council could start with replacing trees they have felled X2 as per their own reports

Anonymous

1/31/2024 03:53 PM

Plant trees with berries to feed birds in autumn and winter.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 04:43 PM

Yes, as someone with forty years experience in urban forestry, I have first hand experience of teh impact such initiatives can have on communities and biodiversity.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 05:43 PM

It has proved to be beneficial

Anonymous

1/31/2024 05:52 PM

Widespread planting should take place.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:04 PM

Get rhoose more trees!

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:09 PM

Look after what's here would be beneficial

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:13 PM

Make sure they are supported properly and watered in hot weather

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:25 PM

Totally agree that there are some really urban areas that need trees - they can be used for traffic calming by putting them in roads

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:28 PM

Natural regeneration can act as a greater carbon sink than tree planting in areas that can be protected from disturbance. it is essential however that other ecological habitats such as mown grassland that provides habitat for nesting birds are protected.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:11 PM

And it's not just deprived areas. New builds in Barry have trees/bushes etc when they have show homes and then rip them out to put more houses in. No green on new builds at all sadly.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:13 PM

I agree with the comments

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:19 PM

Make use of underused farmland

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:28 PM

would help to stop local flooding

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:47 PM

Yes. Recently a tree was cut on our street. When asked when it would be replaced we were told two would be planted in Romilly Park, which is nice for the park but doesn't help with creating shade or supporting biodiversity on our street.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 08:19 PM

Need to focus on not putting housing where trees and wildlife is along with agricultural land and flood planes which they keep exploring across the vale for housing

Anonymous

1/31/2024 08:42 PM

More trees mean better environment for residents

Anonymous

1/31/2024 09:27 PM

Trees are so important for our environments

Anonymous

1/31/2024 10:02 PM

We need greenery or we will end up in a concrete jungle

Anonymous

2/01/2024 08:11 AM

Yes, it would make a huge difference in the areas with smaller gardens

Anonymous

2/01/2024 10:19 AM

I totally agree with the above

Anonymous

2/01/2024 10:25 AM

But also stop cutting down trees for housing! There needs to be a register of all trees public and private

Anonymous

2/01/2024 10:30 AM

Trees help reduce flooding, cool down urban environments and are good for people's health

Anonymous

2/01/2024 02:19 PM

All new build sites should have this built in as a priority as well

Anonymous

2/01/2024 03:24 PM

Council cannot cope with the necessary leaf drop

Anonymous

Only if the council can afford to employ more staff in order to maintain

2/01/2024 05:33 PM

these trees.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 07:44 PM

Trees should be planted where appropriate, due consideration must be given to other habitats such as grass and shrub land, in order for the optimal mix benefitting biodiversity.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 08:25 PM

Of course! Long overdue.

Anonymous

2/02/2024 12:44 PM

But realistically how will you achieve that in areas that are already intensively developed?

Anonymous

2/02/2024 09:09 PM

And it should stop trees being cut down in these areas too. Mature trees are 100x more beneficial to nature than whips or saplings.

Anonymous

2/02/2024 09:20 PM

Community Orchards

Anonymous

2/02/2024 10:34 PM

As per above. More trees in village centres, such as Rhoose.

Anonymous

2/02/2024 11:03 PM

Rhoose has a particularly low tree canopy.

Anonymous

2/04/2024 08:14 AM

Also mixing with woodland plants and ensuring biodiversity ground cover

Anonymous

2/04/2024 09:40 PM

In built up areas the trees will help to remove the carbon from the atmosphere

Anonymous

2/05/2024 06:37 AM

The vale has a vast amount of green space, there are plenty of places for this to take place.

Anonymous

2/05/2024 08:54 AM

To improve air quality, then focus should be on these areas, however council must also maintain these or recruit volunteers to look after/check on these as more spread out.

Anonymous

But also work with land owners and local groups to encourage tree

2/05/2024 04:55 PM

planting wherever suitable

Anonymous

2/05/2024 08:54 PM

Should also focus on the protection of current trees and natural habitats.

Anonymous

2/06/2024 10:04 AM

Only if they are cared for and not left to grow out of control.

Anonymous

2/06/2024 01:27 PM

Yes these should be prioritised 100%. These areas are also generally the most deprived.

Anonymous

2/06/2024 09:05 PM

See my previous comments.

Anonymous

2/07/2024 11:35 AM

See comments above. Shade and cooling in heatwaves and shelter and blanketing in very cold weather

Anonymous

2/08/2024 08:46 AM

But carefully selected and then only if council is going to maintain effectively over the life span of the tree!!

Anonymous

2/08/2024 03:19 PM

Yes it's a positive needful step to protect our beautiful environment.

Anonymous

2/13/2024 09:58 PM

Urban hedge rows are an alternative that cleans air, reduces the spread of pollution and increases biodiversity.

Anonymous

2/14/2024 09:10 AM

Street Trees are hugely important

Anonymous

2/17/2024 04:43 PM

as above.

Anonymous

2/18/2024 01:31 PM

And more

Anonymous

2/18/2024 02:33 PM

Save the money!

Anonymous

I cannot see the benefit unless it is PROPERLY MANAGED by regular

2/18/2024 04:47 PM

trimming

Anonymous

2/18/2024 09:59 PM

I think planting in built up areas is definitely positive but forested areas are vital for wildlife too and protecting areas of habitat for nature.

Anonymous

2/19/2024 09:06 AM

You wouldn't need to plant more, you are the ones cutting them down! 😞 😞

Anonymous

2/19/2024 04:01 PM

See above

Anonymous

2/20/2024 08:53 AM

Also focus on protecting old trees. Stop allowing trees to lose their protected status. So many old, healthy trees lost In Bonvilston

Anonymous

2/20/2024 07:33 PM

You cut them down, you replace them at your cost.

Anonymous

2/22/2024 08:14 AM

New housing developments should have to incorporate trees.

Jane Motte

2/22/2024 04:29 PM

See comment above. There is certainly less than 15% tree cover on the development and the underused car park that lies between Fford y Mileniwm and Fford y Glannau would make an ideal location for some tree planting on land owned by the Council.

Anonymous

2/23/2024 10:09 PM

Preservation and new planting should be prioritised. Some consideration to drought hardy tree species would help with climate change. Public guardians could volunteer with tree care ie watering during times of extended dry weather. More TPOs.

Anonymous

2/24/2024 07:58 AM

I think trees should be planted in these areas but the wording of the question implies that it's at the expense of other areas

Anonymous

2/26/2024 07:42 AM

But they don't replace trees they have removed and only have 1 tree surgeon covering the whole of the Vale,

Anonymous

2/27/2024 12:22 PM

Keep trees away from house foundations!

Anonymous

2/28/2024 02:24 PM

Turning built up areas into tree habitats would improve air quality, the appearance of urban areas and introduce more wildlife friendly spaces. Also, fruiting trees would benefit local communities. Also removing some pressure on farmers to plant trees x

Anonymous

3/01/2024 03:30 PM

The more trees the better as long as they are maintained properly

Anonymous

3/03/2024 02:58 PM

The council's two new tree planting strategy in a woodland for a lost urban tree was misguided. We must protect older trees in urban settings where we can see them.

Anonymous

3/04/2024 06:42 AM

That statement is almost a copy of my previous comments!

Anonymous

3/04/2024 07:44 AM

There is an irony that whilst this consultation is underway, trees are felled in Barry roadsides and they are not replaced , the

Anonymous

3/04/2024 09:03 AM

Then there's a dual benefit: as well as combatting climate change, the trees are near citizens' homes so they can enjoy them.

Anonymous

3/05/2024 09:42 AM

Trees in built up areas have been a part of the landscape in urban areas since those areas became urban, a continuation of this and expansion would probably make up for all that has been lost in the original plantings.

Anonymous

3/11/2024 04:29 PM

Tree roots invade footpaths and properties. They also attract midges, insects and animals and are not suitable cover for people in this country as we don't require protection from strong sun for long periods in the summer.

Anonymous

3/17/2024 08:37 PM

More street trees are needed in town centres to replace at least some of those lost.

Anonymous

3/18/2024 05:11 PM

But , also remembering areas with a higher percentage canopy cover have a lot of ash trees which they're probably going to lose .

Anonymous

Also voluntary initiatives should be encouraged and supported in any

3/18/2024 07:46 PM

area.

Anonymous

3/19/2024 11:57 PM

Not necessarily just in urban areas but everywhere including parks and farm land.

Anonymous

3/20/2024 08:53 AM

Money should be spent on potholes

Anonymous

3/28/2024 10:40 AM

Please replace street trees in situ rather than mitigation planting

Anonymous

3/28/2024 01:00 PM

Instead of chopping trees down

Anonymous

4/02/2024 10:18 AM

But I also believe we need to add to the list and add focus on restoring forests, woodlands and copses as well. pses aswell pse s etc

Anonymous

4/09/2024 07:04 PM

While not neglecting the existing tree stock.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 07:54 PM

Focus on where we can get the most additional trees quickest and cheapest. Trees in urban areas get vandalised and are often unwelcomed by the public.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 07:57 PM

Money will be better spent on other things in the vale to help residents - trees are important but a hungry child is more deserving
And the council should focus their resources responsibly

Anonymous

4/09/2024 08:16 PM

But this should not be to the detriment of sites where it's easy to increase canopy cover i.e. quick wins

Anonymous

4/09/2024 08:34 PM

Council cannot replace those that are felled by them and their subcontractors

Anonymous

4/09/2024 09:36 PM

Trees lose leaves in winter which block drains which cause flooding
....because the council/water company doesn't clean or look after the roads. Results will be even worse road surfaces

Anonymous

4/09/2024 10:12 PM

Useless unless you plant trees which are not in isolation but firm wooded areas

Anonymous

4/09/2024 10:32 PM

Please take a look at the scarred landscape in Llantwit Major by the heritage gate site. I appreciate that the felled trees were on national rail land, but either they or the council needs to urgently reforest due to the impact on wildlife.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 11:36 PM

This is a cover up

Anonymous

4/10/2024 02:17 AM

Stop wasting money!

Anonymous

4/10/2024 06:58 AM

Leave cosmeston Farm alone

Anonymous

4/10/2024 07:26 AM

Yes but needs to align and enhance other priorities, not overtake them

Anonymous

4/10/2024 07:28 AM

But you seem to be chopping down trees in built up areas

Anonymous

4/10/2024 08:22 AM

Please replace the trees removed in Llantwit Major next to the railway on entering the town.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:05 AM

Not sure

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:56 AM

You should focus tree planting of suitable species, in areas that flood and where earth is eroding due to lack of "thirsty" vegetation to help reduce excess water and provide increased stability to the soil. Make developers plant more trees on new estates

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:02 AM

Trees in built up areas block natural light. And once established they impact on surfaces and buildings.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:07 AM

Pot holes, fly tipping and water problems are more important. Leaves from deciduous trees will block drains and water routes so

maintenance of these amenities are more essential. I am a huge lover of trees but by planting more you are adding to the proble

Anonymous

4/10/2024 11:02 AM

Stick to taking bribes from the WEF and leave the farmers to deal with the countryside

Anonymous

4/10/2024 11:12 AM

This involves extensive consultation with private bodies and potential action with little chance of successful outcomes.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 11:35 AM

Developers should be made to plant trees when building new homes rather than leaving areas bare such as Waterfront in Barry

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:01 PM

this big word you found ... CANOPY COVER is more nonsense

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:34 PM

No it will make no difference to your perceived emergency.Or give any worthwhile benefit to people and business.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:47 PM

Remove the 20mph blanket

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:58 PM

I understand the need for this but hope that the Council will continue to support community group initiatives in rural and costal areas in their tree planting endeavours

Anonymous

4/10/2024 02:59 PM

As part of other strategies to help the environment

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:18 PM

with roads not being repaired , future tree root issues will damage them more. House subsidances will increase

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:42 PM

Absolutely.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:50 PM

Again, money is better spent in other areas which you will already know about. Clearly potholes, crime and access to services comes first.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:58 PM

No, the impact you will have on Global Warming and Climate Control is insignificant. You concentrate on what you can impact and allow the bigger players to worry about Global Warming. You don't have the money to spend on it.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 04:42 PM

I agree but care needs to be given to trees in the longer term such as issues with roots, falling branches etc

Anonymous

4/10/2024 04:50 PM

Stop cutting trees down

Anonymous

4/10/2024 05:26 PM

You'll only cut them down to build new houses and schools why bother! There's plenty of trees on Cosmeston Farm which have been around a lot longer than us stop cutting them down.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 05:59 PM

Our environment is more than adequate

Anonymous

4/10/2024 06:40 PM

see above.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 07:45 PM

But on existing parks and council land

Anonymous

4/10/2024 08:15 PM

Yes. Not just planting also long term tree care and local engagement to ensure they reach maturity

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:04 PM

Whilst this should be a good idea, these areas may not have the space to plant the trees. Also there is a higher likelihood that the trees may be damaged before they establish. It would be better to focus the planting in the most suitable areas.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:29 PM

Urban areas are the most expensive and technically difficult to plant trees in. This will mean less trees for the money. Also they are more likely to be damaged and will create high maintenance costs.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:33 PM

The focus should be on where the opportunity is greatest and where there is community support. First step should be to identify patches of land where there's an opportunity and then local engagement in the immediate area to get buy-in

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:03 PM

Not until the roads are fixed, the libraries and other services have been reopened. 30mph has been put back etc.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:31 PM

Please plant trees along Byrd crescent, Penarth, CF643QU. Lots of green kerb sides to plant them.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:32 PM

Yes depending where the built up area is.

Anonymous

4/11/2024 01:06 AM

You shouldn't use the word focus and priority when talking about planting trees, your focus and priority should be the welfare of the people that put you there to work in their best interest.

Anonymous

4/11/2024 05:45 PM

So much of Wales is natural extra measures are not needed

Anonymous

4/13/2024 10:08 AM

Had you made tree planting conditional in Tenders for new developments - we The Tax Payers won't have to pay for it now and this survey wouldn't be necessary !

Anonymous

4/14/2024 12:57 PM

There is great need for tree equality in areas of deprivation. It is imperative that the baseline measures are accurate & reliable, & method standardised. Every effort to care for new trees and properly manage existing trees to prevent loss must be made.

Anonymous

4/14/2024 09:25 PM

A focus on tree planting in nature deprived areas is to be welcomed, as trees offer many benefits to people living near them. It would be of value to involve local communities in the planting and aftercare of newly planted trees.

Anonymous

4/14/2024 11:44 PM

Increased tree cover in built up area helps reduce temperatures, so will help people cope as summers get hotter.

Anonymous

4/15/2024 01:41 PM

There are so many people who support this strategy & would volunteer to support it's implementation.

Anonymous

4/15/2024 04:50 PM

Areas with <15% cover are often those of multiple disadvantage. Improving tree canopy may have benefits to health and well-being of

people in these neighbourhoods. It is important to establish and maintain nature corridors not just plant isolated trees.

Anonymous

4/15/2024 06:16 PM

What well being benefits are these then ? Nothing in reality

Anonymous

4/16/2024 03:29 PM

But planting new tree will take many years before the canopy develops to a stage where it makes significant contributions to climate and nature issues so the protection of the canopy of mature trees is just as important.

Anonymous

4/16/2024 08:08 PM

If possible yes. But having trees v close to building can be a problem so it needs to be a measured approach

Anonymous

4/17/2024 10:34 AM

The 15% is arbitrary - would be silly in a car park maybe even a heavy msnufacturing facility. Other areas mAy have greater percentages. A better guide would be to promote trees where they help people's well being.

Anonymous

4/17/2024 05:14 PM

Street trees have been removed from penarth at an alarming rate. Focus must be on reinstalling these in st Augustine's area.

Anonymous

4/17/2024 07:28 PM

yes so long as existing woodland and canopies are receiving attention to maintain the health of all trees

Anonymous

4/17/2024 10:28 PM

Not necessarily. It depends on available aftercare in the street or area. Community buy-in in deprived areas will be essential to safeguard new tree planting and help maintain it until it establishes.

Anonymous

4/18/2024 07:10 AM

Need more attention to 'right tree, right place' when planting new trees. Many pavements have been made unsafe for pedestrians (particularly prams and wheelchairs) by mature tree roots.

Anonymous

4/18/2024 03:10 PM

There is great need for tree equality in areas of deprivation. It is imperative that the baseline measures are accurate & reliable, & method standardised. The measure given for canopy in Penarth is probably erroneous. practically, plant where possible

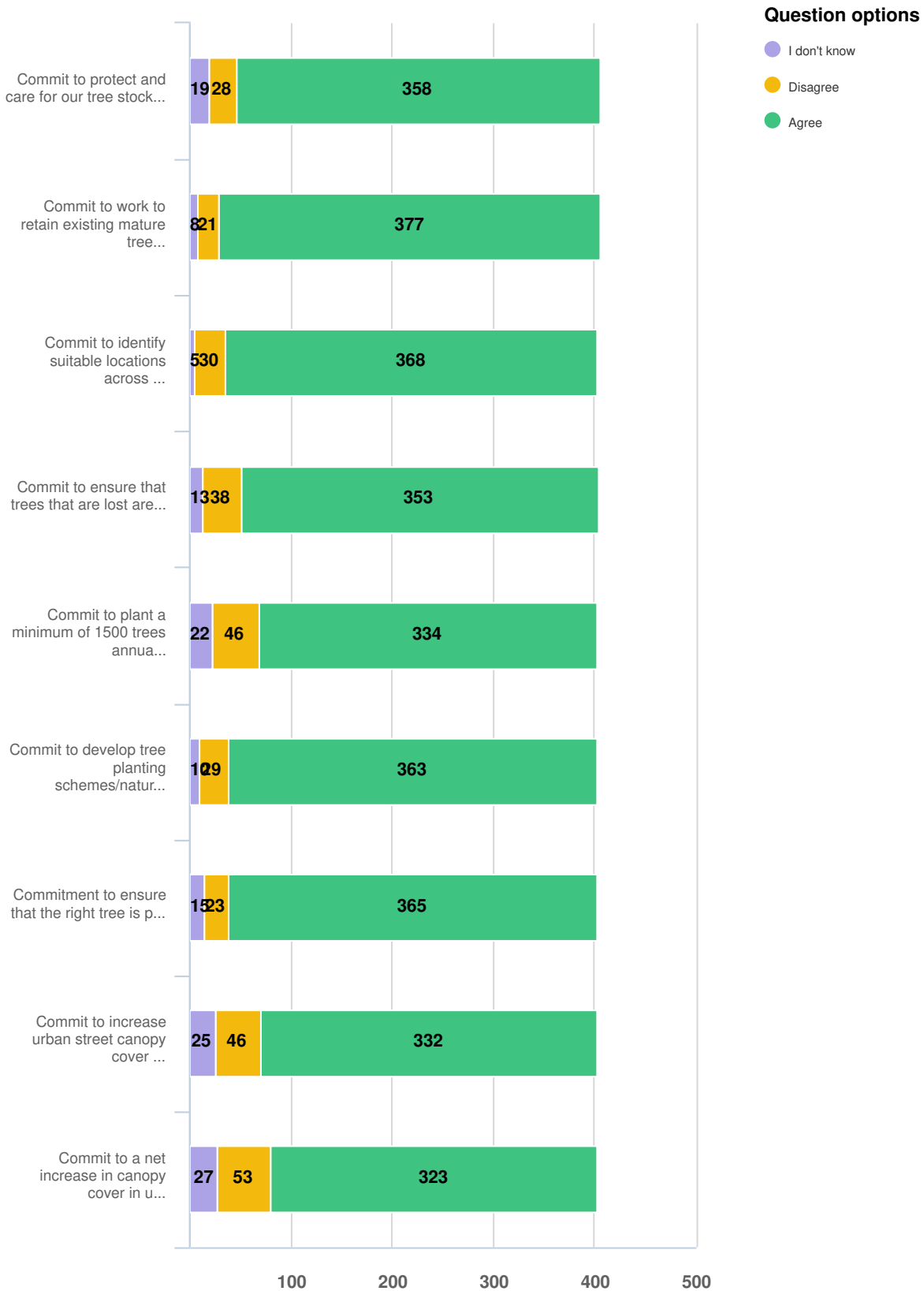
Anonymous

Planting tress in urban areas provides well-being benefits for local

Optional question (171 response(s), 237 skipped)

Question type: Single Line Question

Q7 Do you agree with the aims set out within the draft strategy?



Optional question (406 response(s), 2 skipped)
Question type: Likert Question

Q7 | Do you agree with the aims set out within the draft strategy?

Commit to protect and care for our tree stock.

I don't know : 19



Disagree : 28

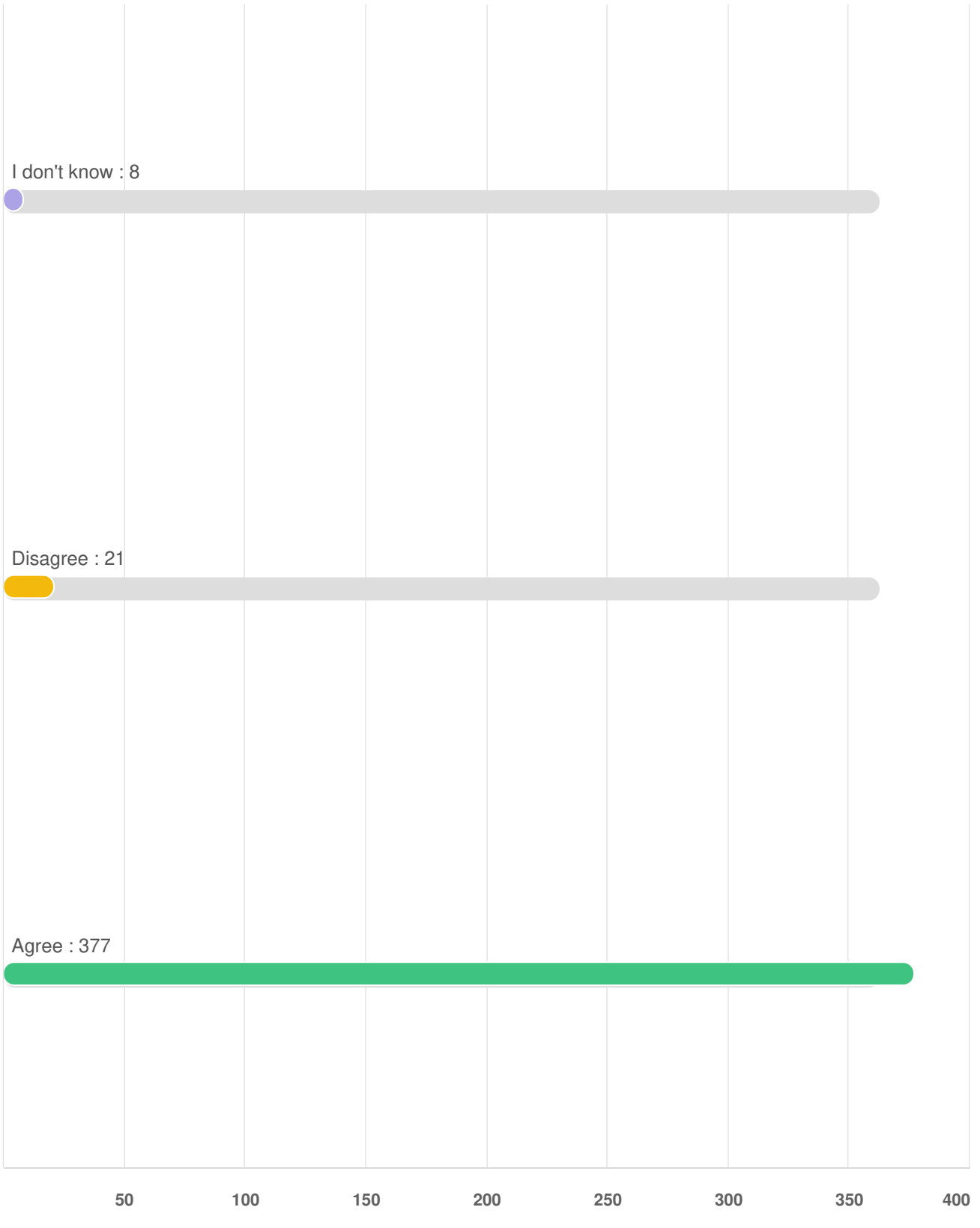


Agree : 358

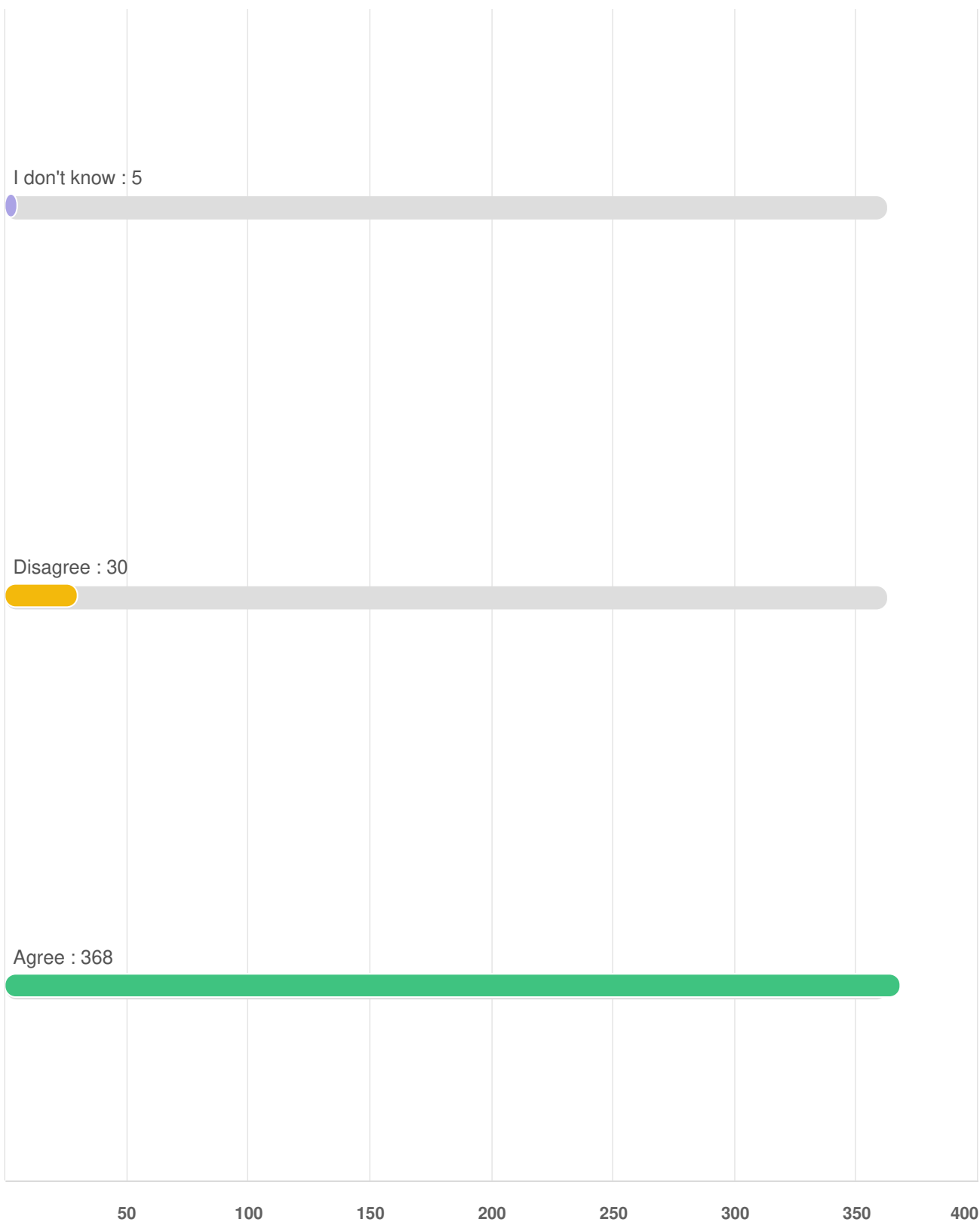


50 100 150 200 250 300 350 400

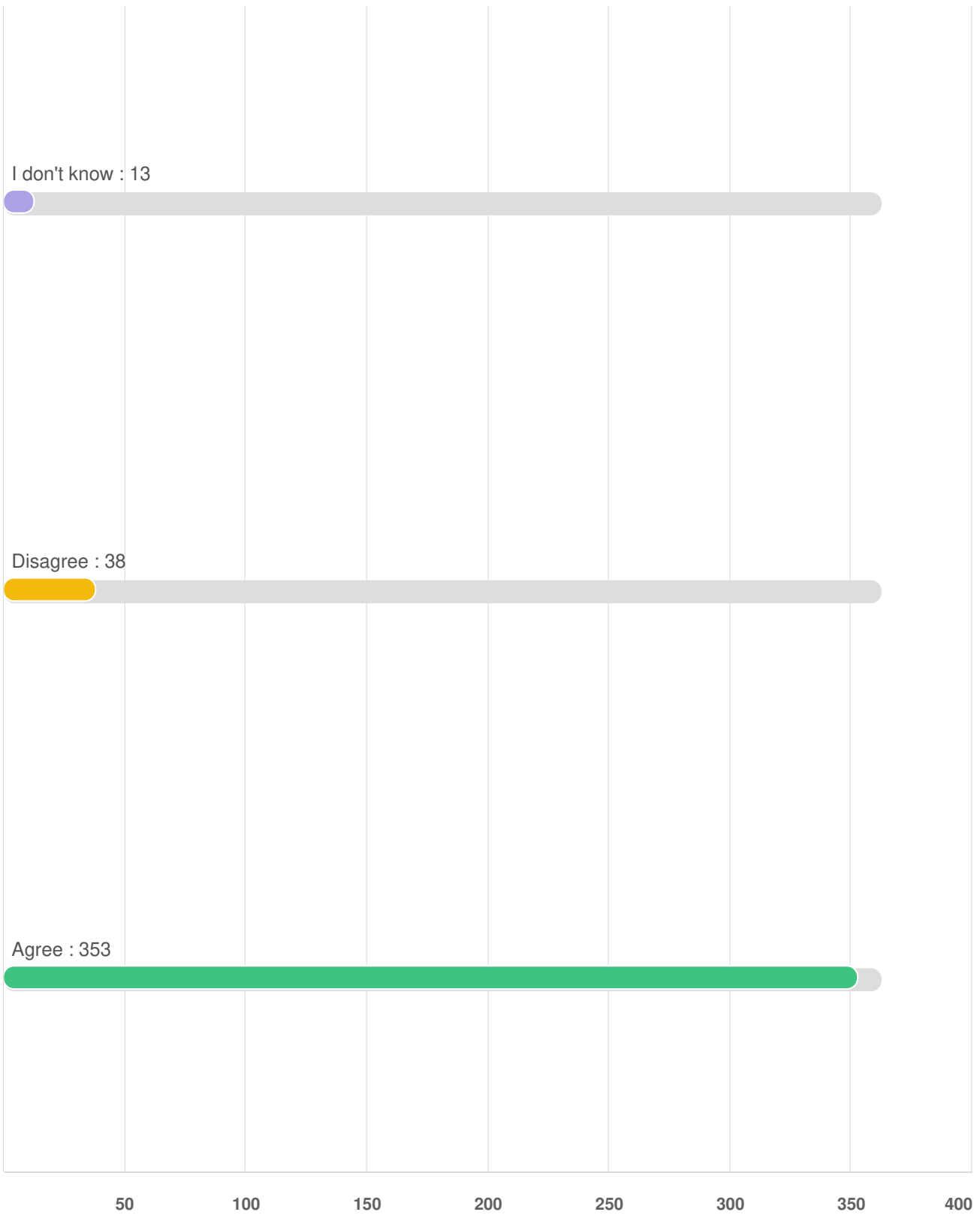
Commit to work to retain existing mature tree stock, wherever possible in both public and private settings.



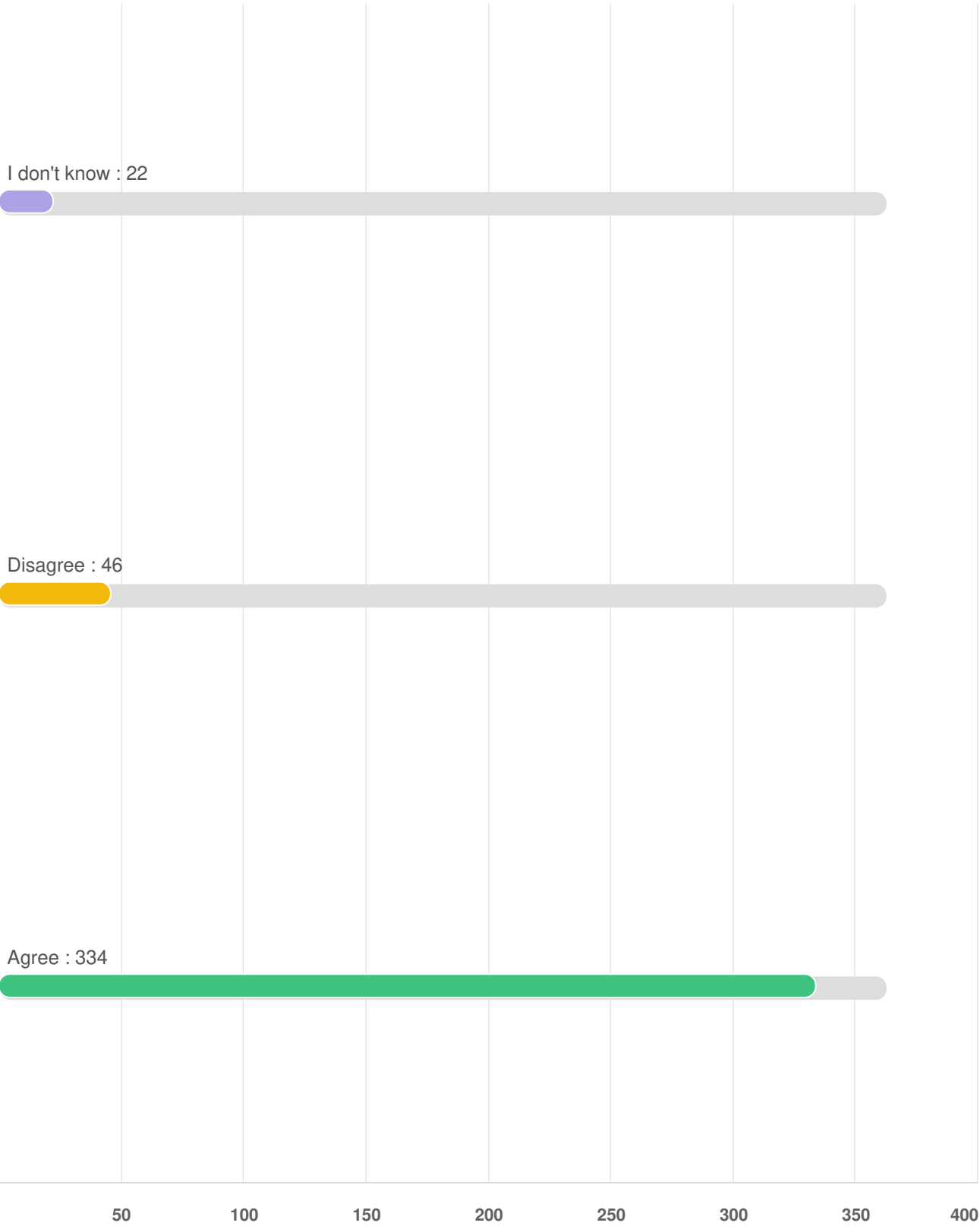
Commit to identify suitable locations across the Council's` land holding where additional tree planting can be accommodated, without detriment to the existing habitats.

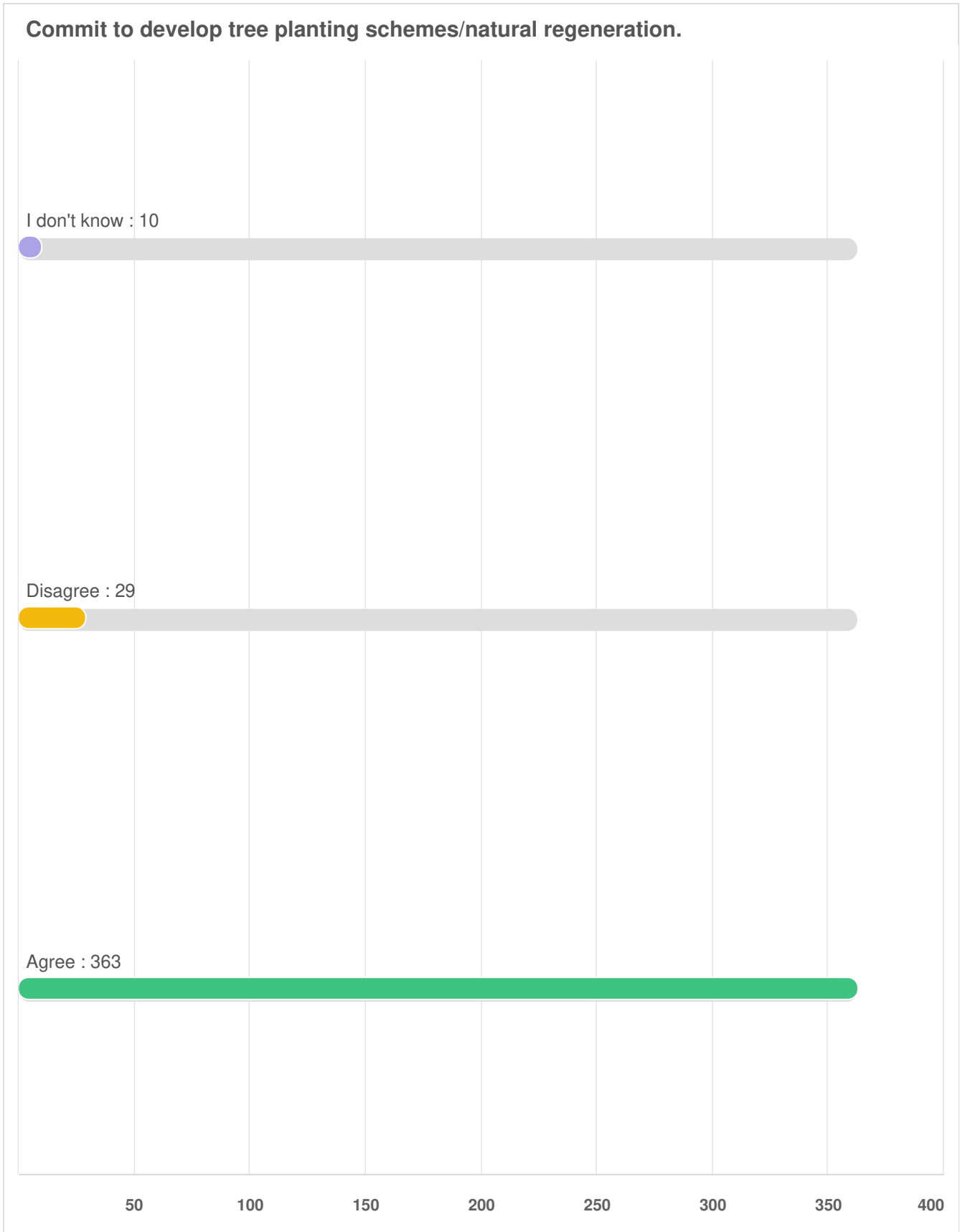


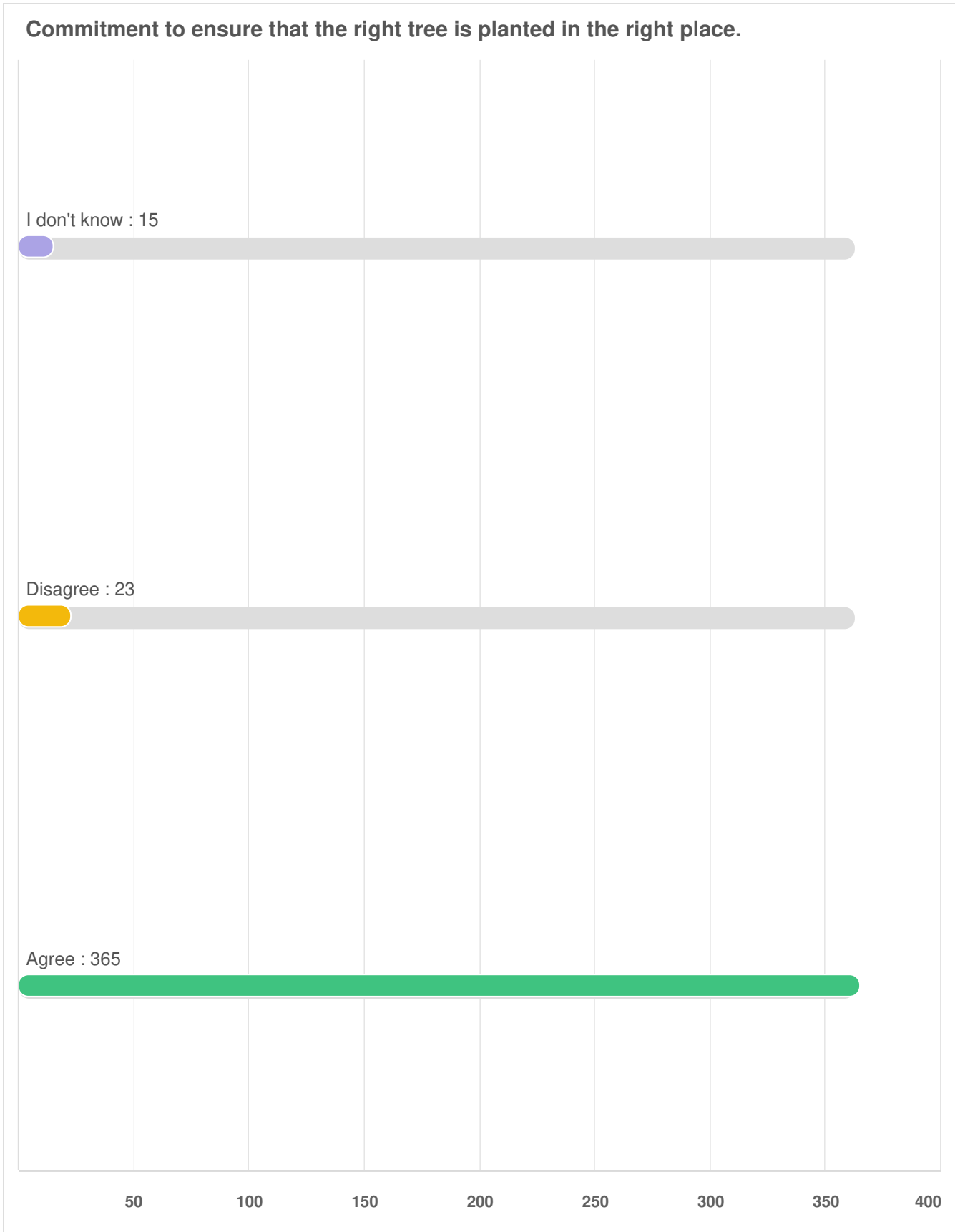
Commit to ensure that trees that are lost are replaced in greater numbers by planting a minimum of 2 trees for every one removed within the urban environment and develop a sliding scale of mitigation based on the extent of tree loss.



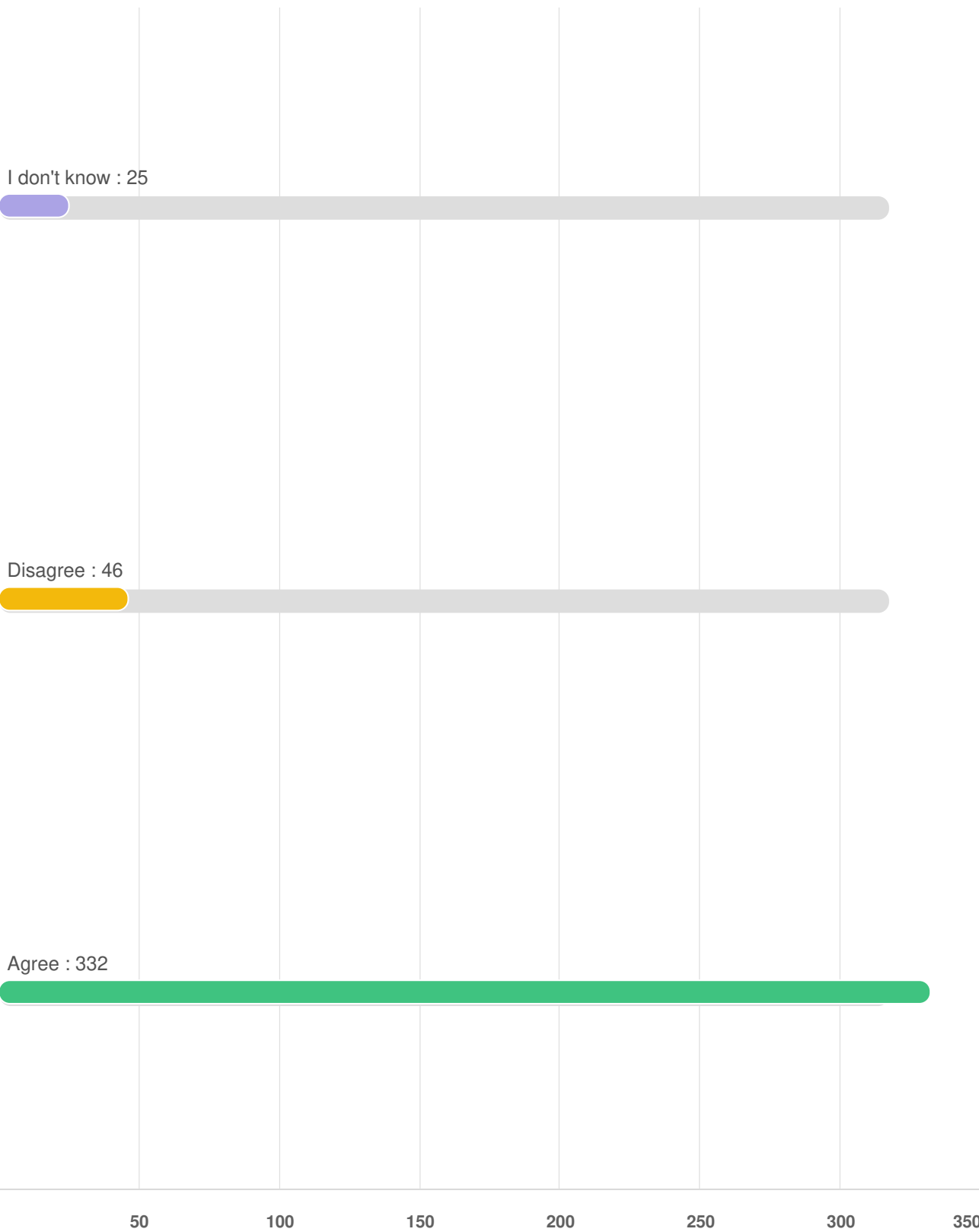
Commit to plant a minimum of 1500 trees annually, which will include a minimum of 500 standard (2m tall trees), in predetermined targeted areas (right tree, right place), across the Council estate.



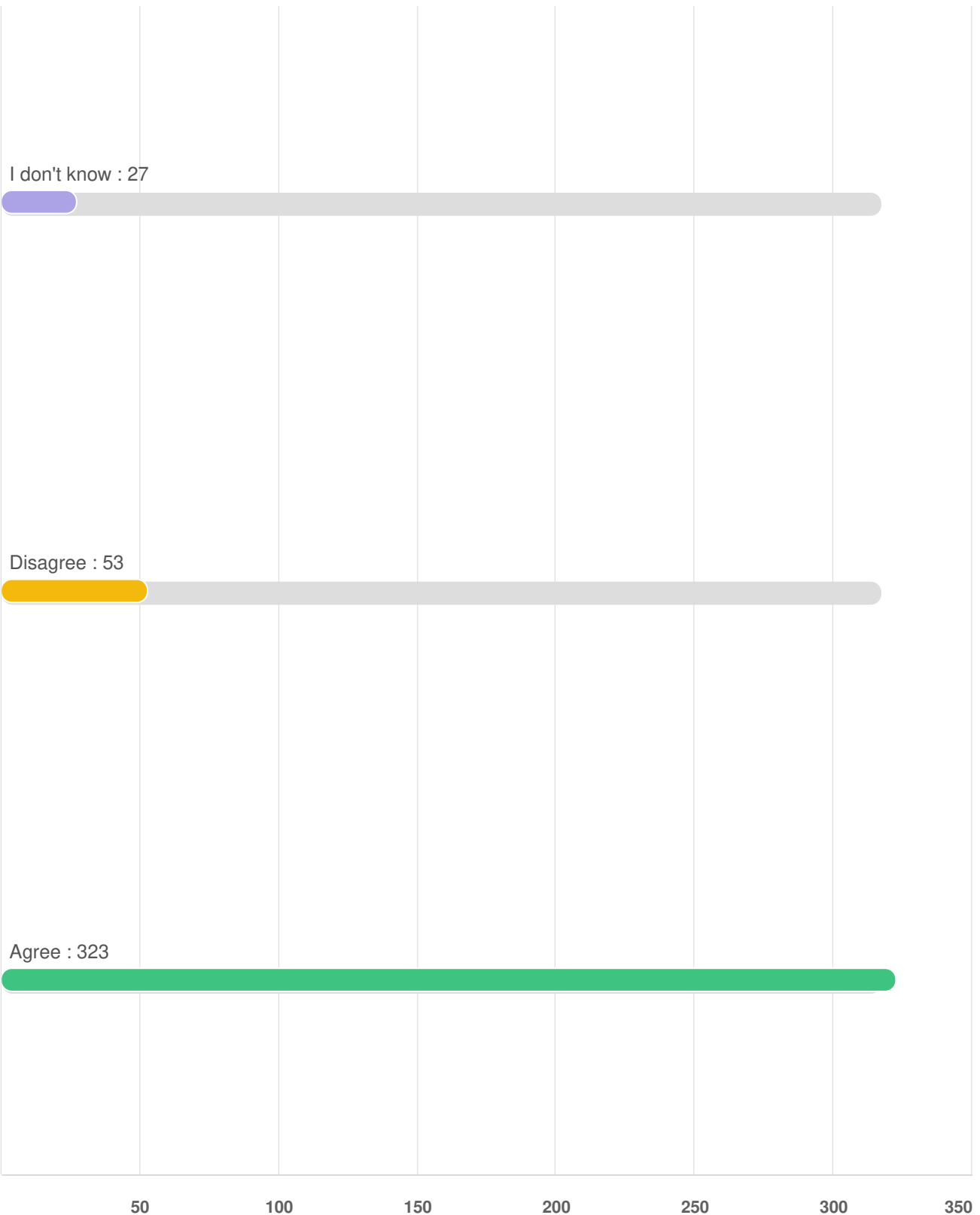




Commit to increase urban street canopy cover within the adopted Highway year on year.



Commit to a net increase in canopy cover in urban areas on Council owned land by 5% by 2039.



Q8 Please add any other comments

Anonymous

1/25/2024 03:14 PM

Great project

Anonymous

1/25/2024 03:56 PM

Barry especially needs more trees

Anonymous

1/25/2024 04:09 PM

Planting very small saplings has proven poor outcomes (between 10 - 50%) with trees not developing into mature samples. A smaller number of larger specimens would be a more cost-effective approach lots of small trees is short termism. Let's look for ward to 15 years and calculate what we would want to see in the Vale.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 04:10 PM

Stop building houses and give over land to parkland etc (Barry Collage)

Anonymous

1/25/2024 04:17 PM

Please give communities opportunities to engage with the Council plans in their areas.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 04:19 PM

I would like to see a commitment of 10% increase in canopy cover in urban areas on council owned land by 2039.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 05:26 PM

My flat backs on to the Kymin Wood, Penarth, and we have: The Usual Mix of Small Garden Birds Plus Crows, Green Woodpeckers, Foxes, Jays, Owls, Squirrels. It's a Delight to live next to

Anonymous

1/25/2024 05:48 PM

Pointless planting more trees when the existing ones aren't properly maintained. Lime trees have been allowed to grow far too tall and bushy, causing issues with drains and house foundations. Maintain the existing trees first, then think about planting more. Don't plant more if finances aren't available to maintain them.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 08:14 PM

I'd like to see a higher percentage of tree cover on council land

Anonymous

1/25/2024 08:53 PM

5% seems a bit low over a 15 year period, can this be increased?

Anonymous

1/25/2024 09:35 PM

Councils should act immediately to improve tree cover and help mitigate the worst affects of climate break down and flooding. Trees

should no longer be regarded as an expensive waste of money to maintain, as it has appeared in the past.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 10:00 PM

Council should look at the benefits of having a diseased tree replacement strategy.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 10:23 PM

This should be a priority

Anonymous

1/26/2024 09:13 AM

Noted one typing mistake on p. 24 '...branches can be torn branches by high vehicles...'

Anonymous

1/26/2024 11:35 AM

Protect the environment, plant more trees and use the rural land at Lower Cosmeston Farm rather than concrete it over with 600 houses in a flood plain

Anonymous

1/26/2024 11:37 AM

Very good 100% agree.

Anonymous

1/26/2024 12:32 PM

Please maintain a watching brief on existing woodland and respond to any individual concerns raised.

Anonymous

1/26/2024 01:30 PM

Sending sapling through the post as the Welsh government did was not a good idea as 6 people received them n our flats all these trees quickly died. Too small and no instructions.

Anonymous

1/26/2024 04:42 PM

More hard wood trees should be planted, that have a longer life span. Instead of just decorative trees.

Anonymous

1/26/2024 05:08 PM

Your objectives are ambitious, I hope the Council retains enough skilled and experienced staff to carry them out. Good luck!

Anonymous

1/28/2024 02:17 PM

We need to preserve the existing tree stock to help people's mental health and mitigate against the effects of climate change

Anonymous

1/28/2024 02:22 PM

There is a duty more than ever for all of us to play our part in tackling climate issues. It is not only on the residents, and the council should commit to the above as it's important to our future.

Anonymous

1/30/2024 03:24 PM

Stop wasting resources by following whatever lobby for whatever field, especially in the current financial situation. Respect the existing stock and manage things as naturally as possible without being target orientated. If you particularly want a target, how about this - commit to reducing council office staff by 15% by 2030.

Anonymous

1/30/2024 04:48 PM

Sounds like a good plan of action

Anonymous

1/30/2024 05:14 PM

But please bear in mind that we also need meadows/grassland in our parks, so please don't swamp all parkland with trees, though that may seem like a simple solution. 1500 trees annually is an awful lot. Does the Vale have enough spare land for all of them?

Anonymous

1/30/2024 06:48 PM

We need trees to survive now and for generations to come. But we need the right people protecting and planting them. Not just someone who has the responsibility added onto an all ready hectare work load

Anonymous

1/30/2024 07:22 PM

Many saplings recently planted by Volunteer groups - have been destroyed by over enthusiastic Council Ground Maintenance sub contractors

Anonymous

1/30/2024 07:46 PM

I hope that residents will be encouraged to water trees planted near them and to keep a watchful eye on them. I belong to a local group who work with the council to look after newly planted trees .

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:54 AM

You allow housing developments which offer no green spaces, no gardens and no ability to provide tree and hedgerow cover. You decimate bird population (If you didn't know they live in these environments) despite both climate and nature emergencies being declared within your council area. As a council you have no idea how to balance the environment and soon there will be concrete from Newport to Bridgend. You need to act as you state. Our childrens lives are in our hands. No fields, no food, no birds.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 09:10 AM

The benefits that trees provide are much reduced by severe pollarding such as occurred recently in Porthkerry Road and Windsor Road in Barry. The Council should stop this practice.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 10:46 AM

TREES BOOST OUR PHYSICAL AND OUR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH. As well as keeping our atmosphere rich in oxygen, they filter pollutants from the air, shade our streets when it's hot and even improve our immunity.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 12:01 PM

Trees that are removed from urban settings should not be supplemented by planting trees else where. The trees should be replaced in the same area where possible.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 12:50 PM

The Vale of Glamorgan have failed in their responsibility and commitment to replace X2 the trees felled in 2020. They reneged on their promise of fruit trees for gardens in 2022.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 01:20 PM

Need to do everything faster where possible. You should ask the local community to look after the trees. ie watering them when necessary

Anonymous

1/31/2024 03:34 PM

Too many times developers get away with tearing down healthy mature trees on private land; and although they promise to replace them often lip service is paid to such planting. Resident trees should be properly encompassed wherever feasible within any plans put forward by developers and there should be greater scrutiny of any replanting to ensure it complies with the proposed plans.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 03:53 PM

We have lost so many trees to disease. We must stop everyone from taking down healthy trees without a good reason.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 04:43 PM

I am particularly impressed by the council's commitment to ensure tree planting is without detriment to existing habitats and the 'right tree, right place' approach. I have seen too many examples elsewhere of the impact of simply focusing on numbers to the detriment of habitats and public open spaces with other community and biodiversity benefits.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 05:43 PM

As long as you keep to your strategy but I don't think you will. This is just a tick box exercise

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:07 PM

Too long a timescale.

Anonymous

It's no good planting more trees if the council are not going to look

1/31/2024 06:09 PM

after them,

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:13 PM

The trees need to be a certain size and supported properly. Need to source a place to purchase trees at a good price.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:25 PM

There are some areas (Penarth and Rhose,) that have very active tree planting groups. I'm not aware of this in Barry so please prioritise.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:49 PM

Rhose in particular feels like it has poor tree cover, with almost no roadside trees, and no land devoted to public woodland

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:50 PM

This survey and the strategy as a whole should include private landowners and pressure put on them to maintain existing tree cover and plant in line with the council strategy.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:07 PM

Yes, right tree in right place ensures longevity. It would be good to see street trees increase in number too, not only to reduce the build up of heat, but well-being benefits too. Public open spaces are limited, so more street trees too please.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:13 PM

The main problem the council has is nit all departments are committed to the same thing. The planning department dont seem to understand the environmental crisis. The draft lical development plan is determined to build on green land so whatever this plan does will lose impact because you are not pulling together for the benefit of the community.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:23 PM

Rhose now looks awgul with new pavements and cycle paths that have destroyed green areas. The council should focus on making the village more green by planting more trees

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:28 PM

need to protect young trees from vandels who damage them.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 08:19 PM

Support for those with trees on their land to help keep them healthy would be good not everyone can afford this or don't have knowledge especially in cost of living crisis

Anonymous

1/31/2024 08:42 PM

It's not either or. Plant new trees,protect older trees. Don't build housing estates on green spaces es suitable forrees

Anonymous

1/31/2024 09:09 PM

Only 5% increase in 25 years lacks ambition

Anonymous

1/31/2024 09:27 PM

I am pleased that the council and the voluntary group in rhoose are addressing the issues of low canopy of trees within it

Anonymous

1/31/2024 10:02 PM

Stop building planning that will cut down or damage the roots of established mature tree, for example Meadowcrist green on Porthkerry Road.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 10:27 PM

giving a commitment to plant 2 trees for every tree lost seems to give carte blanche to chop down trees - new plants will take many years to mature and many will fail (take the example of those along the 5 mile lane as an example). Cutting down trees should be a last resort as in case of ash dieback

Anonymous

2/01/2024 06:22 AM

5% very low should be at least 20 to be effective

Anonymous

2/01/2024 08:11 AM

This plan is crucial for making our town a healthy and thriving place to live.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 09:46 AM

Nerds to be more than 5% net increase.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 09:55 AM

Trees are essential but suitable varieties for urban conditions

Anonymous

2/01/2024 10:19 AM

Trees have been lost in recent years, for example Ash Dye Back, so replacing them and any other losses due to climate change is very important

Anonymous

2/01/2024 10:25 AM

There needs to be proper management programme going forward which is properly funded

Anonymous

I think it would be great to include school children in this project to

2/01/2024 10:30 AM

give them a sense of responsibility and ownership towards the green future of their local environmental. I also think it's a great opportunity to include volunteering action, especially with groups of underprivileged individuals and people with mental health and physical issues.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 10:56 AM

Council could also encourage local residents to plant trees in their own gardens.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 02:19 PM

We should encourage businesses and new housing sites to contribute to this and its maintenance also.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 03:24 PM

Once the Council gets it's act together regarding maintenance there should be nothing to stop the initiatives

Anonymous

2/01/2024 05:33 PM

As previously stated the council need to employ more staff to maintain the trees as anti social behaviour increases where the trees canopies are not kept to a height. As at ceri road wrec, many trees have not been maintained and the branches are to the floor and they become more like hedges/ bushes which drug users are shielding behind when partaking in drug dealing activities. This has been reported to the police and council but told they haven't the funding or man power.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 08:25 PM

Would be good if all the companies that are building far too many houses in The Vale were actually held to account for destroying/cutting down trees. They then seem to plant the very bare minimum of tiny weak saplings and never check to see how they are growing. Its absolutely disgraceful in this day and age that they are allowed to get away with doing so little when they build yet another new housing estate!

Anonymous

2/02/2024 08:05 AM

I live in the centre of Barry and I agree that trees add so much to our urban environment. It is good to see new trees of a decent size being planted in the area around the football stadium. The existing mature trees also need proper care.

Anonymous

2/02/2024 12:44 PM

All the above laudable but are they all realistically attainable? Is 2039 too late? Most informed commentary indicates that 2030 is a critical trigger point in climate control.

Anonymous

2/02/2024 09:09 PM

Planting more trees should not come at the cost of reducing meadows and grasslands. These habitats are just as important and tree planting should not be a panacea for climate change mitigation. Healthy grasslands are carbon sinks too. We have so many wide Road verges in the Vale that could be used for tree planting and not impact safety. Or at least let the hedgerows grow more than 2 metres.

Anonymous

2/02/2024 09:20 PM

Should be more ambitious.

Anonymous

2/03/2024 11:54 AM

We should encourage residents to plant more trees in their own localities. And we should enforce the laws re people concreting over front gardens.

Anonymous

2/03/2024 09:50 PM

Should be a date earlier than 2039 although I appreciate it needs to be realistic

Anonymous

2/04/2024 09:40 PM

you could commit to a net increase in canopy cover in urban areas on Council owned land by 30%...your minimal effort is not a drop in the ocean

Anonymous

2/05/2024 04:55 PM

Allow natural regeneration where possible - rows of trees in plastic not always the best option. Scrubby brambly habitat is also great for wildlife and will eventually become woodland

Anonymous

2/05/2024 08:54 PM

Will the Council adhere to its own strategy ?

Anonymous

2/05/2024 11:29 PM

I would like to see much, much more ambitious targets than 5% in 25 years -- that barely puts us above the current average. 20% more seems a reasonable minimum target if not more. We'll never hit net zero without more ambitious targets -- plus the benefits for biodiversity and wellbeing.

Anonymous

2/06/2024 01:14 AM

This should be done sooner

Anonymous

2/06/2024 09:05 PM

A 5% increase in canopy cover in 15 years seems a bit low on ambition. Surely, 10% or 15% wouldn't be over ambitious.

Anonymous

2/07/2024 01:36 AM

5% seems very low. I think this figure should be higher

Anonymous

2/07/2024 11:35 AM

5% may not be ambitious enough. Trees removed in our town centres should be quickly replaced as close to or in the same spot.

Anonymous

2/07/2024 05:11 PM

Harsh punishment for vandalism of trees

Anonymous

2/08/2024 08:46 AM

Existing trees are very poorly maintained, if at all. Maintenance needs to be central to the policy and after ensuring trees are appropriate for the location. Far too often large trees are planted that cause damage and safety hazards over the long term!

Anonymous

2/08/2024 03:19 PM

This is a great plan & will be very beneficial to the population.....for health ..more green employment....climate....& teach us all to be more caring of our environment.

Anonymous

2/08/2024 03:19 PM

Replacing trees should a priority as we will be losing many ash trees due to the "ash die back" disease which is currently devastating our local woodland areas.

Anonymous

2/13/2024 09:58 PM

suitable enclosures for street trees with porous topping needs to be priced into any planting plan

Anonymous

2/14/2024 09:05 AM

Well get on with it

Anonymous

2/14/2024 09:10 AM

Please include in the strategy a firm commitment that where street trees are cut down they are replaced in the same location with a similar tree.

Anonymous

2/18/2024 01:31 PM

We have lots of wide paths and areas that are in streets that could be safely have trees planted on. They used to have them in old pictures

Anonymous

2/18/2024 02:33 PM

We are all skint, roads have pot holes, people using food banks etc. spend money on things that will make a difference.

Anonymous

I just feel the target is too high and fear that enforcement will put

2/18/2024 04:47 PM

people against you. Selecting trees that don't send roots into properties and threatening disturbing the structures is ESSENTIAL

Anonymous

2/18/2024 06:39 PM

And yet thousands of trees are destroyed by building on them.

Anonymous

2/18/2024 07:19 PM

How can anything be done if you got no budget allegedly??

Anonymous

2/18/2024 09:59 PM

replace trees from where they are removed also please as my road 5 large trees have been removed and bases removed and replaced by slabs.. if you'd left gaps I would of planted myself. Doesn't make any sense.

Anonymous

2/19/2024 04:01 PM

I am concerned that with limited resources, the council will not maintain the trees properly. Planting in urban areas is lovely but trees can cause issues with damaging pavements and leaves can be slippery if no cleared up.

Anonymous

2/20/2024 08:53 AM

What kind of trees would be acceptable to replace trees that are needlessly cut down? 3 beautiful old Scots pines with an active rookery replaced by a laurel hedge, is not acceptable to me.

Anonymous

2/20/2024 07:33 PM

As long as you leave the farmers alone and replace what you have destroyed in the last few years

Anonymous

2/21/2024 01:14 PM

I feel strongly that felled pavement trees should be replaced and not just left with about 3feet of trunk left as a hazard.

Jane Motte

2/22/2024 04:04 PM

There should also be a commitment by the Planning Dept to ensure that tree planting on new housing developments fully complies with the permissions agreed.

Jane Motte

2/22/2024 04:29 PM

I have been trying for over 3 years now to get some tree planting on a small part of the overflow (very underused) carpark that lies between Fford y Mileniwm and Fford y Glannau . The area in question lies alongside the footpath leading to the playground area. Everyone I have approached at the Council has agreed that this is a good idea that would benefit the environment, the drainage in the carpark and the community/amenity value as well. Whilst in agreement with the

idea, no one has had funds available to carry out the project. I really hope that - at last- this might actually get off the ground. I'd be very happy to discuss this in more detail.

Anonymous

2/22/2024 11:12 PM

I have some concerns around any limitations to a householders' rights to manage trees on their property & would like reassurance that this will be proportionate and inexpensive to challenge where TPOs are proposed. However, otherwise the strategy is positive.

Anonymous

2/23/2024 10:09 PM

If there is a public representation on any level I could volunteer for I would like to be involved.

Anonymous

2/24/2024 07:58 AM

All these statements depend on the type of tree. Right tree right place is essential- there are too many super tall conifers around and a load of deciduous trees along a road can mean slippery pavements and blocked gutters when the leaves fall.

Anonymous

2/26/2024 07:42 AM

Vale don't listen to public and build everywhere, can't look after trees already grown/growing

Anonymous

2/28/2024 02:24 PM

We underestimate the impact of greenery and trees on the mental wellbeing of communities. The uplifting sights, sounds and improved air quality can completely change the feel of run down/ neglected spaces and bring communities together to care for and appreciate them

Anonymous

2/29/2024 03:52 PM

I don't think the 5% target is high enough given the extent of the climate / biodiversity emergencies.

Anonymous

3/01/2024 03:30 PM

Where trees are removed and replaced with 2 trees they should be of the same type and not small saplings which are easily vandalised

Anonymous

3/02/2024 09:14 PM

I can't remember where I saw this, but in some places, a policy of planting fruit trees has been successful.

Anonymous

3/03/2024 02:58 PM

questions above are pejorative. It isn't just a matter of all trees are good trees. A tree strategy policy should be about protecting and enhancing the Tree Canopy of residential urban areas. Also a planted

tree has to be cared for else it dies. So this requires community involvement in planting and caring for trees.

Anonymous

3/04/2024 06:42 AM

Yes of course I agree with all of the above comments. It all needs managing. I'm happy to help where I can and I'm sure there are many residents of the town who feel the same. Plenty of groups out there who have a view: Barry Action for Nature, Green Party etc. If you are struggling with funds why not approach those groups or citizens such as I who have time on their hands and are willing to help?

Anonymous

3/04/2024 07:44 AM

Not ambitious enough , need to increase the percentage

Anonymous

3/04/2024 09:03 AM

Where I have disagreed, it's because I don't think that the targets are ambitious enough.

Anonymous

3/05/2024 09:42 AM

A tree strategy has been in the offering for some years now and has taken many hours of work to get it completed and, I'm sure, this far. It needs each council department to be on board and work together to ensure that a tree strategy is actually possible. Different departments have a differing view on trees and it's obvious that some care very little on their importance. It's unfortunate and almost negligible that the planning department, the one department that is charged with overseeing TPOs and trees within conservation areas, neither has the knowledge or qualification to oversee that brief. Therefore how can parts of the strategy be delivered when the one department charged with it, has no ability to professionally deliver it. The council has no qualified tree officer in that role. Until that changes, the policy is almost worthless and just a tick box exercise willed by a few good hardworking officers but undone by others. The strategy is good in terms of wanting to plant trees but until there is a tree officer, how can you deliver on the management. There are many instances where that is failing.

Anonymous

3/07/2024 11:42 PM

insufficient to plant 2 for each one lost. There's greater than 50% loss of planted saplings, depending on site and aftercare..

Anonymous

3/11/2024 04:29 PM

What, where determines these locations? Council land is vague and it needs to be in communication and agreement with locals and residents in those areas.

Anonymous

The Planning Department should be involved in the Tree Strategy

3/14/2024 09:40 PM

aims and have a % for new trees that are required to be planted on all new builds.

Anonymous

3/17/2024 08:37 PM

I think you should aim for Woodland Town status in the towns - 20% canopy cover. The council should employ a TPO Officer and more trees should be protected this way. It is imperative that ALL council departments work within this strategy.

Anonymous

3/18/2024 05:11 PM

I would like reassurance that the council's performance on implementing the tree strategy is evaluated after a couple of years and then at regular intervals . I feel that where I live there is a lot of potential for street tree sponsorship and people would be able to afford to donate.

Anonymous

3/18/2024 07:46 PM

Why not also have tree planting in rural areas particularly if organised by voluntary groups.

Anonymous

3/20/2024 08:53 AM

Money should be spent on other things in this current climate. This doesn't keep council tax down.

Anonymous

3/22/2024 06:28 PM

.. 5% increase in canopy cover in urban areas by 2039, in 14 years time seems very vague.

Anonymous

3/28/2024 01:00 PM

Unfortunately I have no belief or trust in this council

Anonymous

4/02/2024 10:18 AM

Its totally essential to restore the harm we and pass generations have committed to wildlife and people. Too many councils have carelessly cut down and removed trees that was and is totally unnecessary, often under a lie that they are diseased.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 07:54 PM

Replant 3:1 in line with PPW.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 08:16 PM

5% is a very low target to set especially over the 15 year period of the plan. It would be good to see a much more ambitious target put in place.

Anonymous

Do the Council actually believe in the above - as they show no

4/09/2024 08:34 PM

commitment, transparency or honesty

Anonymous

4/09/2024 09:30 PM

We at Murchfield Community Centre have asked for more trees to be planted but instead you have taken them away. Please be consistent with your policies and don't pick and choose what suits you best.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 09:36 PM

Stop with the spending of money on fanciful projects when UK (not wales) is responsible for 0.9% of the global emissions. Put the budget back into perspective and stop bankrupting the area on things that will have almost zero impact when all key areas are going to ruin such as roads, cleanliness, schools, police etc etc etc. the list is endless

Anonymous

4/09/2024 10:12 PM

Your plan seems to focus on isolated trees alongside the highways or in urban areas. That provides little habitat. We need to preserve and expand wooded areas which also includes undergrowth

Anonymous

4/09/2024 10:32 PM

I moved to the vale to appreciate the greenery and improve my health but sadly I have seen no evidence so far of the trees being prioritised or cared for.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 02:17 AM

Please don't tell me my council tax is riding again! Or I have to pay for a new tyre after hitting a pothole on another Vale damaged road!

Anonymous

4/10/2024 06:30 AM

I am concerned that the plan for planting 2 trees for everyone removed , will push the overall Welsh agenda for tree planting , to support plans for inclusion of farmland and particularly the use of council rented farms

Anonymous

4/10/2024 06:42 AM

The net increase target should be more than 5% Why not aim for 15%?

Anonymous

4/10/2024 06:58 AM

Leave cosmeston Farm alone

Anonymous

4/10/2024 07:18 AM

Spend the money on the NHS first, then repairing roads. The welsh government has a disproportionate focus on the environment and there are more important short term needs at the moment.

Anonymous

You need to make sure you can afford to do this alongside other

4/10/2024 07:26 AM

priorities including road management which is poor in the vale.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 07:28 AM

As long as this is isn't going to cost us anymore money

Anonymous

4/10/2024 08:22 AM

Please replant trees that has been removed in Llantwit Major next to the railway line . They have been indiscriminately removed without proper consideration for retaining some mature trees that did not pose any threat to the railway line!

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:56 AM

Tree saplings don't replace the healthy, mature trees that are being cut down currently, all across the Vale. They are also easier targets for vandalism and more prone to dying off naturally before they reach a decent size. Older trees, of a more reasonable size and less vulnerable, need to be planted more. What is the "right tree"? What is the "right place"? You do not list what species the "right tree" list includes. Unfortunately, too many people complain about falling leaves, tree roots etc, in urban areas. Just because VOG claims to understand the benefits of trees in urban areas, doesn't mean the public understands or agrees. This feels like you are trying to plant more sapling trees in urban areas to justify butchering green spaces and the felling of mature, healthy trees. The thousands of saplings planted along the new road to St Athan, are 5 years old, barely of any decent size, and most look dead. It would have been more beneficial to plant hedging type species which were faster growing and had habitat and food benefits for wildlife, which would have established themselves faster, than the saplings that were planted there. The new road is an example of "not the right tree, not the right place" for those types of trees, if you ask me. More saplings does not equate to greater environmental benefit. One larger tree can provide far more benefits than hundreds of tiny saplings. Providing trees in concrete jungles is an example of closing the stable door after the horse has bolted. You need to increase the natural growing spaces in urban areas rather than planting trees in tiny spaces, by reducing the amount of unnecessarily concreted ground and replacing that with natural earth, plant trees and suitable wildflowers and grasses to grow beneath them, to improve water drainage, reduce risk of flooding, and increase earth stability. The state of the roads and grass verges around farmland demonstrates the huge need for increased soil stability and natural drainage. Every wet day, farm land turns from soil to lakes/rivers because the natural protections have been stripped away. Increase ditches along roadsides. Plant trees and hedging along these areas. More needs to be done to identify areas on the edges of urban areas where larger scale reforestation can take place. Unfortunately, deprived areas, where tree canopy cover is lower, are statistically more likely to see higher levels of vandalism to

trees. Much more needs to be done to educate everyone on the benefits and critical need for trees, to reduce trees being targeted. Deliberate damage and targeting of similar planting projects along urban areas in Cardiff evidences how many people fail to understand and appreciate the need for trees and plants in these areas. However, planting trees in areas where they are more likely to be accepted, in areas already considered rural or semi rural, would mean new trees fit in more and draw less attention, therefore less likely to be vandalised. Trees are penalised by too many people, simply for being trees. Many dislike the leaf fall, shade from the branches, roots not being completely underground, risk of branches falling in high winds. Planting in urban areas increases the likelihood of all of those happening. What happens when trees naturally self-seed? Will this go against the "right tree, right place" thinking? Will this be used as a reason to remove those trees, because VOG did not approve the planting of that particular tree in that particular place? The strategy does not list which tree species are already growing, and in what number, in each areas. This is important because the benefits and drawbacks of each tree species, in different areas, varies greatly. Whilst it is too late now, Transport for Wales needs to be held accountable and answerable for the brutal butchering and stripping of all the trees along the train tracks all around the Vale of Glamorgan, and other affected areas. The impact of this on the environment and the wildlife that depended on those trees for food and habitat, is substantial enough without taking into account the stark eyesore these areas have now become, the increase of railway noise levels, the risk of railway track debris falling and causing damage, the risk of land around the tracks becoming less stable due to reduced, natural land stabilisation from trees and their root structures. The railway photos in the strategy are completely ironic because the trees that are shown in those photos are no longer there now.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:02 AM

If you do need to plant trees then plant fruit trees to help the food chain and the nature that comes with it. Stop wasting our money on fanciful ideas and councillors wishes.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:07 AM

These newly planted trees will need constant maintenance and protection until they are mature enough to go un damaged by human intervention. Whose responsibility will that be?

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:48 AM

There needs to be more woodlands too support people's well being and the current woodlands need to be protected such as kilvey hill being protected against skyline. Children will grow up learning the importance of trees and the habitats around them

Anonymous

4/10/2024 11:02 AM

Stick to taking your bribes and stop fcuking my county up please

Anonymous

4/10/2024 11:12 AM

Why did the council abolish it's tree renewal programme 20 years ago, close down it's leisure and amenities department (parks dept.) and lay off it's direct labour force of fully trained and qualified staff ??? Now where if anywhere can you find the personnel to manage this wonderful 'new initiative'??.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:34 PM

This is virtue signalling at its worst. Concentrate on your main jobs like education schools policingetc

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:47 PM

Remove the 20mph blanket

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:58 PM

I think the target of 5% by 2039 is too little too late. I think it should be 10%

Anonymous

4/10/2024 02:59 PM

Thd gocus on trees should be part of other strategies to help climate change. Why ais the council continuing to use glyphospate and constantly mowi g council owned land. Its time to change and be more proactive in tackling climate change.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:12 PM

Please make sure any newly planted trees are cared for - I see many trees planted and then left to fall over or die. It must not just be a box ticking exercise

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:39 PM

Leave the farmwrs alone. Spend money on the roads. Wales isn't short of trees. Amen

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:50 PM

Pointless aims when there are far more valuable ways to improve life for residents.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:58 PM

Please realise you are a very small and insignificant council. You should concentrate on the tasks for which you were elected instead of wasting public money which you don't have on the fanciful projects. And employ someone that could ask more meaningful questions instead of loaded questions that are set to achieve your own agenda.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 04:34 PM

I agree to public areas having increased planting.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 04:42 PM

I think that planting trees everywhere is not the answer to climate change problems. If The Council really wants to improve the environment then they should improve public transport and stop building houses on the green belt and instead use brownfield sites.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 04:44 PM

I see you cutting down lots of trees but don't see any new ones being planted, so I think you are not working to the plan that you are asking above Stop cutting down perfectly good tree to build more houses

Anonymous

4/10/2024 04:50 PM

Stop cutting trees down

Anonymous

4/10/2024 05:26 PM

Please leave our fields alone and stop cutting down existing, well established trees.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 06:40 PM

we could always spend 3.5 million planting trees in uganda.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 07:45 PM

Farmer's land should be exempt as it is important to have a food supply, that's why it was created after the 1st world war. Make sure it's not detrimental to any new housing or existing and plant only suitable trees where the roots won't affect the foundations

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:04 PM

Needs to be a managed process not just targets plucked out of the air to suit some political objective.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:29 PM

In terms of two trees to replace each one lost this will depend on the site and the land available. Also Welsh Gov planning policy requires 3 for 1 replacement on new developments. Trees in urban areas create issues and cost a lot to maintain, instead stop pollarding existing trees so often. Why set a figure when the land available for new trees is not known.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:33 PM

These targets are out of line with the UK Climate Change Committee recommendations for the carbon budget periods - we need to be much more ambitious, but not focus on what the Council alone can do, but its ability to co-ordinate and enable Others

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:03 PM

Please get your priorities right.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:29 PM

The council should be much more strict on residents and companies chopping down trees that are in conservation areas or under tree preservation orders, and look at implementing more tree preservation orders. It's no good protecting the public trees if private trees can be cut down whenever a resident feels like.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:31 PM

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:32 PM

We need trees but need food for farming too, dont forget that.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:32 PM

Trees on pavements / highways should be pollarded to keep their size under control and help them not to get too large.

Anonymous

4/11/2024 01:06 AM

You shouldn't commit to anything other than looking out for resident's interests, resources that left over can then be used to pet projects

Anonymous

4/11/2024 08:57 AM

Why by 2039?

Anonymous

4/11/2024 05:45 PM

It is also wrong to expect farmers to give up 20% of their land for planting trees and wild life. There is enough natural habitat in Wales and plenty of trees too

Anonymous

4/12/2024 07:02 PM

5% increase is not ambitious enough. It should be more. And it should be mandatory for private landowners, who cut down a tree to replace it with two minimum two meter standard trees

Anonymous

4/13/2024 10:08 AM

I am appalled, disillusioned and saddened that you probably think this survey is necessary and will show you as forward thinking, environmental warriors! The importance of tree planting is NOT a new concept. Over the last few decades Barry / Vale of Glamorgan has allowed developments to be built that are poorly constructed, unattractive and not conducive to a healthy environmental future. Your avaricious greed and shortsightedness in the past has now

created an expensive mistake that has to be corrected and will undoubtedly result in higher Council Tax for residents.

Anonymous

4/14/2024 12:57 PM

It would be hard not to agree with any of the above. The important consideration here is whether those responsible for drafting the Strategy have utilised exemplar documents and appropriate guidance to develop all elements of this draft strategy - there doesn't appear to be a clear "vision" and the aims and objectives are poorly presented. Best practice guidance is provided in the Tree Council's "Trees and Woodland Strategy Toolkit (TAWST)". This supports local authorities with in-depth guidance to develop and deliver their own tree and woodland strategies. It explains how to build the political and community support that is vital to ensure that trees and woodlands are planted and protected. NRW considers that the DEFRA funded TAWST, although issued to English local authorities and not yet in Wales, to be "high-quality and has application in Wales even though it has clearly been written for England. After careful consideration NRW may even recommend the toolkit for use in Wales but that work has yet to be initiated." (quote provided in written communication). Vale Council should follow this guidance as far as possible in the final drafting of their TS. See link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-tree-and-woodland-strategy-toolkit> Further documents of assistance are • "Trees in the Townscape, a Guide for Delivery" by TDAG (Trees and Design Action Group) <https://www.tdag.org.uk/trees-in-the-townscape.html> and • "Preparing Borough Tree and Woodland Strategies, Supplementary Planning Guidance", by the Forestry Commission for the Mayor of London. See <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/planning/implementing-london-plan/london-plan-guidance-and-spgs/tree-and-woodland> Exemplar strategies exist such as the Flintshire Urban Tree and Woodland Plan. Indeed this is quoted by NRW as an exemplar of good practice, particularly in the way it uses data on canopy cover to prioritise areas for action. See <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Countryside--Coast/Tree/Tree-Plan.pdf> In England, Merton Council's Tree Strategy was selected as one of two exemplars of best practice by the Mayor of London. Worthy of particular mention as relevant to the Vale Council is that this strategy is in two parts, part 1 dealing with issues relating to Council owned trees, and part 2 dealing with more wide-reaching issues relating to Merton's Treescape or 'Urban Forest' ... "in other words, all the trees in Merton, whether publicly or privately owned – and shall aim to optimise tree benefits throughout the borough". Merton Tree Strategy Part 1: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/design-conservation/trees/tree-strategy>

Anonymous

4/14/2024 09:25 PM

I agree completely with the aims of the draft strategy and feel delighted that it has been published and is progressing to be implemented asap I hope. My concern is that the laudable aims and intentions of the tree strategy should be cascaded to each department / directorate within the Vale Council - so that all decisions made across the departments will be consistent with the aims of the tree strategy. In particular the Vale planning department must ensure that all planning decisions comply with the Tree strategy aims, and also that planning decisions can be enforced. I also wonder if the local councils within the Vale (eg Penarth Town Council) can be expected to support and work to the Tree Strategy aims?

Anonymous

4/14/2024 11:44 PM

Tree planting should happen in spaces that need greening, not spaces that already have wildlife value. It should also be done in a way that's sensitive to local communities, in particular enhancing the aesthetic and creative play opportunities. Large scale planting schemes need to get supported by adequate maintenance, in particular in the early years after planting. High numbers of losses of newly planted trees will be detrimental in terms of public perception.

Anonymous

4/15/2024 04:08 PM

When planting new urban trees they should in no way encroach on pedestrian space. Road trees should be positioned in build-outs, taking space from car parking when possible. Trees are more important than cars.

Anonymous

4/15/2024 04:50 PM

The tree strategy is not ambitious enough in my view. There is also a lack of detail as to how accountability will be ensured and what the consequences will be of not achieving these goals. Securing longterm funding so longterm plans can be progressed is important for the Tree Strategy and the Council as is integrating plans with those of neighbouring councils.

Anonymous

4/15/2024 06:34 PM

Perhaps this could be a higher percentage, but agree as minimum

Anonymous

4/16/2024 03:29 PM

A 5% increase in canopy cover in 15 years seems like an unambitious target, given the importance of trees.

Anonymous

4/16/2024 08:08 PM

As in my comment to an earlier question, trees in urban areas can be a problem so a sensible approach is needed

Anonymous

More street tree replacement pleas

4/17/2024 08:12 AM

Anonymous

Committing is not doing! We need more evidence of action.

4/17/2024 09:06 AM

Anonymous

Why are tall tree stumps being left on Victoria Road, Penarth?

4/17/2024 10:03 AM

Anonymous

I have disagreed with some of the statements. Trees are not about box ticking but are necessary for well-being. Why not commit to liaising with a top health professional - maybe a recently retired consultant as well as someone who understand a bit about surface water management? Numbers alone will create untoward situations - do some homework on what happened with a numbers led development ethos in the former communist countries.

4/17/2024 10:34 AM

Anonymous

I would like to see more trees in Windsor Terrace. This is the main route from the town centre down to the beach and would look better if it was more wooded.

4/17/2024 10:56 AM

Anonymous

Street trees have been removed from penarth at an alarming rate. Focus must be on reinstalling these in st Augustine's area.

4/17/2024 05:14 PM

Anonymous

in towns such as Llantwit Major there seems to have been a policy of removing healthy mature trees which formed excellent urban street canopy in order to achieve the aims of the dubiously successful active travel policy. This policy of felling such trees must stop

4/17/2024 07:28 PM

Anonymous

Not sure average 5% target canopy is realistic. How will this be measured against priority for tree deprived areas?

4/17/2024 10:28 PM

Anonymous

There is little to disagree with in the above, apart from the last. More work is needed on the question of Canopy Cover. The stated target for Council owned land, although a bold commitment, is not helpful to the wider aims and priorities of the strategy. The canopy cover target could be an overall target for the whole Vale, with individual targets for each of the urban areas depending on their current level. It should be a target to increase to from the stated starting point and within a target timescale. For example, increase from 17% to 20% within 10 years. The NRW report on Town Tree Canopy Cover in the Vale of Glamorgan provides more detailed analysis of canopy cover according to land use and ward. The NRW Canopy Cover data was

4/18/2024 03:10 PM

revised in 2018, and is freely available at no cost to the Council. This will be more accurate and useful than the i-Tree Eco method in the tight grain of urban areas. We strongly welcome the Council's commitment to adopt the "Joint Mitigation Protocol" for use in handling claims for damage to buildings and structures alleged to be caused by Council owned trees. We do though have concerns over the proposed approach to implementing this, as it may result in the continued needless loss of mature trees and wastage of public money. This relates mainly to the content of FAQ 11, 13 and appendix 5. There are errors in this that if not corrected will result in the continued needless loss of mature trees and wastage of public money. The TS should include an action to identify potential sources of funding as a precursor to the Action Plan. The Strategy would benefit from a clear vision developed collaboratively by public participation. Page 35 of the TAWS Toolkit gives detail on potential components of the vision, and page 37 details how to create a collaborative vision for a TAWS. It states: "Developing a specific vision for your Trees and Woodland Strategy can help provide an overall strategic direction. It should explain the need for investment and management of your treescapes in a short and digestible statement and establish a shared understanding with stakeholders. ... Develop a vision collaboratively with your working group and carry out appropriate public consultation". The VoG Council should identify and engage with a wide range of stakeholders in the final re-drafting of the TS. The Tree Strategy should cover the whole of the Vale treescape, and bring together all relevant stakeholders. Whilst much of the strategy must focus on the Council's own land holdings, there should be a much bolder strategic approach, bringing together the private and voluntary sectors who can contribute to its aims. The Vale Council is in an unique position to show leadership and direction to all those who can play a part in this. Overall, the draft Tree Strategy is too inward focussed on the VoG own activity and land holding. Although opportunities for collaborative working are described later in the document, the TS should also cover trees in private ownership and those not on local authority land. Opportunities should be taken to involve the wider community in the final drafting of the TS and ultimately in the delivery of the Action Plan. The Vale Council has a clear leadership role in the wider response to both climate and biodiversity emergencies. The TS should be driven by political leaders and chief officers, both in the adoption of the strategy and in the implementation of the Action Plan.

Anonymous

4/18/2024 07:52 PM

This response is from Gwyrddio Penarth Greening (GPG). GPG is a registered charity and community group based in Penarth working to create a more sustainable Penarth. Promoting Bio-diversity is also one of our charitable objectives. GPG welcomes the Council's commitment to increasing the urban tree canopy by 5% by the year

2039 is to be welcomed but GPG would prefer to see a higher ambition in light of the Nature and Climate Emergency. For example, in places the report focuses only on the Council's own land holdings, public land and highways. We would like to see the Vale of Glamorgan take a much more ambitious approach bringing together those in the private and voluntary sectors to contribute to the strategy to increase the urban canopy. We would like to see a more ambitious target that all actors and players can subscribe to and contribute to. A target that only relates to the Vale of Glamorgan's own land will not necessarily bring the overall results that the area needs. We have to grow food locally as part of our efforts to tackle the Nature and Climate emergency and promote Bio-diversity. GPG would like to see the strategy include action to encourage the growing of edibles especially where community groups might be involved. To date GPG has been involved in a number of initiatives to support the planting of trees for edibles and bio-diversity in Penarth. Back in 2010 GPG planted a community orchard in Cosmeston. More recently fruit trees have been planted by GPG's Penarth Growing Community and the Friends of the Kymin in the grounds of the Kymin and a new project – Perllan Penarth/Orchard Penarth – works with local schools and residents to grow and share fruit grown. GPG is concerned that there is no mention in the draft tree strategy of trees as a future food source. In light of the Nature and Climate Emergency, trees should be given more prominence in the planning process with new trees planted in all new residential developments including the new housing planned at Cosmeston. A target on tree planting and bio-diversity should be included for the contributions from the private residential developers based on best practice elsewhere. For example, we note that developers in England are now required to deliver 10% Biodiversity Net Gain when building new housing, industrial or commercial developments.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-housing-developments-to-deliver-nature-boost-in-landmark-move> GPG would like to see the links between the planning process and the tree strategy strengthened. It is essential that the Tree Strategy influences the policies and activities of all Departments including Planning, Education, Highways, and Neighbourhoods. Volunteers now play a vital role by helping to establish and then maintain young urban trees in Penarth. GPG would like to see the role of volunteers and community groups better reflected in the Strategy and the Action Plan. GPG would like the Strategy to be clearer on accountability – and explain how the Strategy is to be monitored and evaluated and where accountability sits. We would like to see the strategy include indicators and milestones, as in the all-Wales Strategy 'Woodland for Wales', with progress reviewed and reported on a regular basis.

Anonymous

'The right tree in the right place' - very important as the majority of

4/18/2024 09:23 PM

problems with pavements is because too larger a tree was planted back in the day - Now we have to rectify the problem.

Optional question (189 response(s), 219 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q9 | As well as the aims, the draft Tree Strategy contains a 20 point action plan. Please note any comments or suggested amendments to the action plan here.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 03:14 PM

N/A

Anonymous

1/25/2024 04:10 PM

Stop front gardens becoming car parks.

Anonymous

1/25/2024 05:26 PM

NC

Anonymous

1/25/2024 08:14 PM

The council needs to promote wilding of verges and other less used areas to promote indigenous wild and meadow flora and fauna, especially pollinators.

Anonymous

1/26/2024 12:32 PM

Please refer to the points I have made as part of my response to the specific points outlined in this consultation paper. I would like to suggest that monitoring existing woodland and tree cover is incorporated as an important focus. Thank you.

Anonymous

1/26/2024 05:08 PM

Completely agree. I look forward to better management of street trees including the cessation of the practice of over pollarding older trees which stresses and kills them slowly. The plan mentions only carrying out work to trees where absolutely necessary.

Anonymous

1/30/2024 03:24 PM

Adapt any council action plan to the current financial necessities to avoid any further council tax increase. Ways should be actively sought to reduce the unfair council tax burden on local residents, who are already under severe financial constraints because of circumstances beyond their control. Unless external funding can be found, without resorting to borrowing, council activities must be restricted.

Anonymous

1/30/2024 04:48 PM

none

Anonymous

1/30/2024 04:58 PM

Environmental issues need to be at the fore front and tackling what we can looking after our existing tree stock and regenerating new areas of tree planting and encouraging new growth of lost trees is important to the issues we frace as humans and is something that we can control for the present and future generations. Plating frute trees in parks where people can pick, bringing communities together in tree planting is important and caring for what is around us.

Anonymous

1/30/2024 05:14 PM

I can't see an action plan

Anonymous

1/30/2024 06:48 PM

The council start something and pay lip service to things thinking once it's up and running it no longer needs action. Sometimes things are so important like trees for our future the councils need to be accountable for improving things not just maintaining and saying the correct things

Anonymous

1/30/2024 07:22 PM

It's all false promises - we need urgent action . Costs cannot and should not be a problem (when considering Council Tax , Council waste Public Money on Vanity Schemesand so on)

Anonymous

1/31/2024 07:54 AM

Stop ruining open farm land for development before its too late. There are plenty of brownfield sites available to housing before prime agricultural land is ruined.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 10:46 AM

Look at the ways in which Japanese culture treat and revere trees. Too much dense housing development far too little trees in any of the councils plans.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 12:50 PM

We can comment all we like - it makes no difference to the actual actions of the administration of the policy. They just don't do it

Anonymous

1/31/2024 01:21 PM

I note the destruction of trees all over Barry by companies advertising things like driveways who nail advertisements to council owned trees. Pontypridd Rd in Barry is a prime example. I reported this to the council many months ago and the signs are still there

Anonymous

1/31/2024 03:05 PM

Invite public to help plant in their local community. Ask schools to help out.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 04:43 PM

I will be reviewing the strategy in a bit more detail and will contact the Council direct with comments.

Anonymous

1/31/2024 05:43 PM

More funding and resourcing to deliver the tree strategy

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:13 PM

Follow up after planting and make sure old trees are trimmed

Anonymous

1/31/2024 06:34 PM

Stop debating and start planting!

Anonymous

1/31/2024 08:42 PM

Stop building houses on land. We need more green space. Protect greenfield sites and protect nature on council deemed brown field sites that have started to rewind. Areas suitable for wildlife and where wildlife is regularly seen cannot then be built on, concrete is barren, no insects, birds, small mammals or drainage!

Anonymous

1/31/2024 09:27 PM

None

Anonymous

1/31/2024 10:27 PM

I don't see anywhere in your strategy the importance of educating householders about maintenance of trees on their properties

Anonymous

1/31/2024 10:35 PM

Support should be given to local communities also planting trees

Anonymous

2/01/2024 06:22 AM

Needs to be far more ambitious. Very weak goals and objectives at the moment.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 10:19 AM

Trees will need to be checked on, to make sure they are healthy

Anonymous

2/01/2024 10:30 AM

It would be great to see an addition to this plan of areas which can be rewarded, such as grass verges left uncut. And biodiverse meadow areas increased where possible.

Anonymous

2/01/2024 03:24 PM

Don't know

Anonymous

2/01/2024 08:25 PM

We need far more trees than are mentioned. Far stricter guidelines for large house builders who destroy green spaces. Far more trees replaced by builders AND regularly checked and should not be allowed to plant tiny saplings and then virtually walk away with massive profits and no regular check in the green spaces left behind.

Anonymous

2/02/2024 09:09 PM

Planting on wide verges and roundabouts. Not sacrificing grassland for tree planting. Making residents more aware of how trees will benefit their property, not take away from it, in the face of rising temperatures due to climate change. Better messaging as to why this strategy is crucial for the health of all residents. Maybe the angle of healthier for dog walkers and their dogs to have shade. Trees planted near playgrounds as children need shade too (often overlooked in park planning). Replacing previously cut down trees from 2023 and before, not just ones cut down when this strategy comes in to place.

Anonymous

2/04/2024 09:47 PM

Every street should be ones with trees

Anonymous

2/05/2024 08:54 PM

Prevent development in the countryside and the destruction of current trees and natural habitats

Anonymous

2/05/2024 11:29 PM

NA

Anonymous

2/06/2024 01:14 AM

To act as quick as possible with planting trees

Anonymous

2/07/2024 11:35 AM

Tree cover has been shown to reduce traffic speed and build outs on wide roads with trees can produce a chicane effect which reduces traffic speed as well

Anonymous

2/08/2024 03:19 PM

Proper tree maintenance of mature LA trees would also help ensure existing trees survive.

Anonymous

2/14/2024 09:10 AM

Please include in the strategy a firm commitment that where street trees are cut down they are replaced in the same location with a similar tree.

Anonymous

2/18/2024 04:47 PM

What are the 20 points?

Anonymous

2/18/2024 07:19 PM

Unworkable on your budget

Anonymous

2/18/2024 09:59 PM

replace trees from where they are removed also please as my road 5 large trees have been removed and bases removed and replaced by slabs.. if you'd left gaps I would of planted myself. Doesn't make any sense.

Anonymous

2/19/2024 04:01 PM

I would consider offering trees FOC to homeowners with large enough gardens. They can maintain them themselves then

Anonymous

2/19/2024 08:21 PM

Would it be possible to plant 1 or 2 fruit bearing trees in local parks?

Anonymous

2/20/2024 08:53 AM

A link to the action plan would be useful!

Anonymous

2/20/2024 09:45 AM

Heavy fines on anyone taken down a protected tree without planning permission. This happens often, and all planning that are passed on building land where it's noted on planning that trees will be or should be planted that the council ensure that this is done and not forgotten about. Eg Trees were due to be planted on the planning approval for a new house in Gileston about 13 years ago.No tree was ever planted.

Anonymous

2/20/2024 07:33 PM

Stop selling green belt land for development. Stop selling green belt land for wind/solar. Where are all the council let smallholdings gone?

Jane Motte

2/22/2024 04:29 PM

This is a well thought through strategy which I sincerely hope will be taken forward as quickly as possible even in this time of financial constraints.

Anonymous

2/23/2024 10:09 PM

More TPOs Engagement with the public at local level Volunteer programme Champion trees climate resilient tree species

Anonymous

There is no point commenting the vale planning do what they like and

2/26/2024 07:42 AM

the Vale does not listen to public

Anonymous

3/03/2024 02:58 PM

I welcome the council publishing a Tree Strategy Document. To accompany the Strategy the Council must employ qualified arboriculturalists.

Anonymous

3/04/2024 06:42 AM

Include my above comments...

Anonymous

3/04/2024 07:44 AM

Why not work with your community to provide trees in partnership. I frequently visit London where urban tree replacement puts us to shame . Some of the trees are clearly labelled as being provided by local businesses or individuals

Anonymous

3/11/2024 04:29 PM

There are fruit trees planted on streets in urban areas in Penarth, that are a sight and dangerous in summer as the fruit rots on the footpaths, attracts vermin and is left by the council destroying footpath and road surfaces.

Anonymous

3/17/2024 08:37 PM

These are all excellent and should be implemented immediately.

Anonymous

3/18/2024 05:11 PM

I would have liked to have seen more more mention of working 'in partnership ' with the various voluntary tree groups across the Vale . Some of the groups have established very good working relationships with park officers etc .

Anonymous

3/18/2024 07:46 PM

In action plan number 9, it states that it different departments of the Vale should work together, I suggest also the Vale should work with other groups working to help increase tree planting in the Vale.

Anonymous

3/22/2024 06:28 PM

Excellent plan.

Anonymous

4/02/2024 10:18 AM

Does not go far enough.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 08:34 PM

All sounds good - but need evidence and total action (not political jargon)

Anonymous

4/09/2024 09:36 PM

Stop focusing on flipping trees! There are more important things to worry about where the money will have a real impact on thousands of people

Anonymous

4/09/2024 10:24 PM

This is all piece meal, and focuses only on land that has no use or value. Consider Cosmeston farm, where ancient hedge rows have been decimated, all in preparation for a new building project. A demonstration of hypocrisy at its best. The land the council owns and is able to plant trees on, is public land, land that children play on. Eg, public play parks etc. to put trees on these places would deny children the the chance to play. You do not own land sufficient enough to plant the trees you want, without taking away, public spaces. Trees, planted on roads or close to houses, impact not only on the road, but also on the peoples houses. 'Avenues' of tress, are no more in suburbia, because if the damage the do to properties. So the question is... What council land are you talking about? Because unless you come clean, but announcing what land you actual own, how can any one make a decision, if you should plant a tree on it or not.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 02:17 AM

Lazy, no for nothing Council workers of Welsh Gov start listening to the people.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 06:58 AM

Leave cosmeston Farm alone

Anonymous

4/10/2024 07:18 AM

Drop this action p,an, waste of money. Leave the tree planting and land management to farmers and forestry.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 07:59 AM

This is all excellent but there needs to be supporting communication and engagement around this work as some people don't understand the value of trees for our health. Eg. My neighbours recently stopped a friends of Penarth trees group planting a tree by their house on the old railway path as they don't won't more trees leaving sap on their car. They're also constantly fearful of trees falling on their car. Education and engagement are key.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:34 AM

Stop letting people chop down trees such as Cosmeston & by Ty hafan houses or 'holiday lets' There is established wildlife living that cannot be disturbed & just planting new trees won't help! Just leave existing hedges & trees alone !

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:56 AM

Although Barry has, according to the strategy, lower tree canopy levels, planting new trees in Barry, as the pilot, will, once again, be seen as Barry being first and foremost in VOG eyes. Other locations that were considered should be put out to a public vote for better public buy-in and support. Levels of vandalism to trees, and natural die off rates in the pilot area, and subsequent urban planting areas, should be monitored and those statistics made public, so that expenditure and benefits in those locations can be proven/disproven.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:02 AM

Cancel it all and save thousands of pounds.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 11:02 AM

Leave the country the fuck alone you corrupt puppets

Anonymous

4/10/2024 11:12 AM

Right tree in the right place -- the evidence of this is sadly lacking especially in porthkerry country park and the Parade and Knap gardens. Pure amateur examples of what NOT to plant and where in these locations.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:34 PM

Bin it.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:47 PM

Remove the 20mph blanket

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:58 PM

I think point 18 ,increasing the tree canopy by 5% needs to be increased to 10%

Anonymous

4/10/2024 02:59 PM

Please note the Climate Action plan for Councils document. Doing nothing and planting a few trees isn't going to achieve anything.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:18 PM

Do not waste any more tax payers money on stupid strategies like this

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:50 PM

Please start using common sense and listening to residents. The vale is becoming an embarrassment.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:58 PM

Scrap it.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 04:42 PM

Will people directly impacted in urban areas be reimbursed / supported with the effects of the trees e.g. clearing leaves, sap etc as with the cost of green waste collections it seems unfair to ask the public to fund this

Anonymous

4/10/2024 04:50 PM

Stop cutting trees down

Anonymous

4/10/2024 05:59 PM

Take a walk into the countryside of Wales and you will see abundant trees all over. Yet again more scaremongering by wolk society

Anonymous

4/10/2024 06:40 PM

W.T.F. have questions 11 to 19 got to do with trees ?

Anonymous

4/10/2024 07:45 PM

Farmer's land should be exempt as it is important to have a food supply, that's why it was created after the 2nd world war. Make sure it's not detrimental to any new housing or existing and plant only suitable trees where the roots won't affect the foundations. Increase planting in existing parks and no mass clearance of ancient forests like southerndown gates should be allowed again, could also use existing land you own on the coast. Llantwit major 2nd carpark has a flooding issue and could benefit from a few trees, also the old aberthaw site which is being cleared

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:04 PM

See note earlier on Cwm George ancient woodland. This needs managing properly. Loads of dead a fallen trees that are dangerous and blocking paths etc..

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:29 PM

I can't find a copy of it?

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:32 PM

Please forget about trees and be more concerned about potholes and policing and infrastructure in general. More and more houses built without thought for those who have to get to work. Public transport useless.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 09:33 PM

The balance of risks is all wrong - too much emphasis on Council liability rather than the risk of not hitting the climate targets. I applaud the fact there is a draft strategy but it is too conservative

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:29 PM

Enforcing tree preservation orders on private land and placing more trees under the protection of tree preservation orders. Commit to stop using insect killing weed killer, as the insects are important for the pollination of trees and the general health of the trees and their ecosystems.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 10:31 PM

Please Plant trees along Byrd crescent. Lots of green kerb space .

Anonymous

4/11/2024 01:06 AM

you are wasting money on what you want to do regardless of what needs to be done first, prioritise.

Anonymous

4/13/2024 10:08 AM

Put them into practice quickly !!

Anonymous

4/14/2024 09:25 PM

The action plan looks good, and if implemented could ensure protection of the Vale's trees and an increase in tree canopy. It is really great that the Vale now has employed a Tree Officer, and hopefully this person will be able to work to implement the action plan. I wonder if there could be more mention of how volunteers can be involved in caring for the trees of the Vale: item 16 mentions launching a Friends of Trees scheme- when in fact many volunteers are already active in the Vale. Volunteers could do much/ are already doing much to assist in carrying out the aims of the Tree strategy.

Anonymous

4/15/2024 01:41 PM

Engage local communities in it's implementation.

Anonymous

4/15/2024 04:50 PM

See above. Add a strategy and actions to ensure that volunteers and community groups work in collaboration with the Council and Tree subgroup and can assist to plant, maintain and expand the tree canopy. Add a strategy and actions to increase volunteer numbers and engage community groups with local biodiversity, climate and nature emergency issues.

Anonymous

4/16/2024 03:29 PM

Item 1 will be crucial to the success of the strategy. If individual departments give priority to their own separate departmental objectives over the Tree Strategy objectives, the strategy will fail. Item 16 ignores the fact that a highly active Tree Forum, part of the Penarth Civic Society, already exists in Penarth and has for several years. It has been the Vale Council which has been dragging its feet over the introduction of a strategy to protect and develop our urban trees.

Anonymous

4/17/2024 09:06 AM

Publish progress locally.

Anonymous

4/17/2024 10:34 AM

I have said enough!

Anonymous

4/17/2024 05:14 PM

Street trees have been removed from penarth at an alarming rate.
Focus must be on reinstalling these in st Augustine's area.

Anonymous

4/17/2024 10:28 PM

Please explore opportunities for match funded grant applications to maximise spending power of available S106, capital allocations and tree sponsorship funds: increase scope of funding proposals in your action plan. Commit to develop user-friendly Council webpage for trees, after-care, sponsorship, who to contact etc to Give landowners and the wider public guidance about tree planting, species selection, complaints, maintenance, protection etc.

Anonymous

4/18/2024 03:10 PM

Action Plan A priority action is needed to identify potential sources of funding, to include unlocking new funding opportunities for tree planting and aftercare, from both central government (such as the Nature for Climate Fund), from private finance (i.e. sponsorship, carbon credits, biodiversity net gain, etc) or from charitable funding (i.e. The Tree Council, Woodland Trust, etc). We would strongly encourage bids that incorporate match funds. To attract the attention of funders the TS needs to be far more aspirational. To increase the chances of successful bids the Strategy should be as much about what the Council aspires to do as what it can do with currently available funds. The Action Plan should be reviewed every year to report on progress and to review priorities. On Page 21:- Replacement Trees. I suggest adding "commit to a rolling programme of street tree replacement for age diversity. Redevelop existing tree pits where feasible to restore avenue planting".

Anonymous

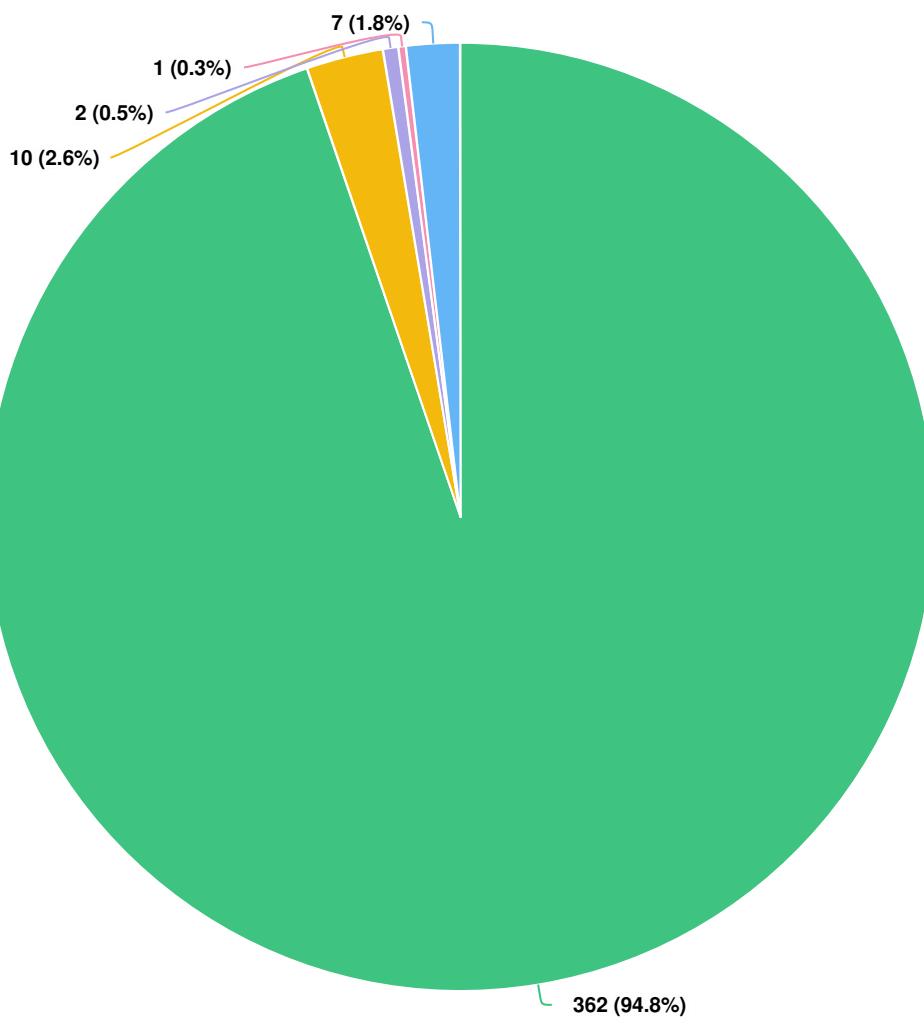
4/18/2024 07:52 PM

As noted above GPG would like to be clearer on accountability – and explain how the Strategy (and the action plan) is to be monitored and evaluated and where accountability sits. We would like to see the Strategy include indicators and milestones, as in the all-Wales Strategy 'Woodland for Wales', with progress reviewed and reported on a regular basis.

Optional question (100 response(s), 308 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q10 Are you responding as..?

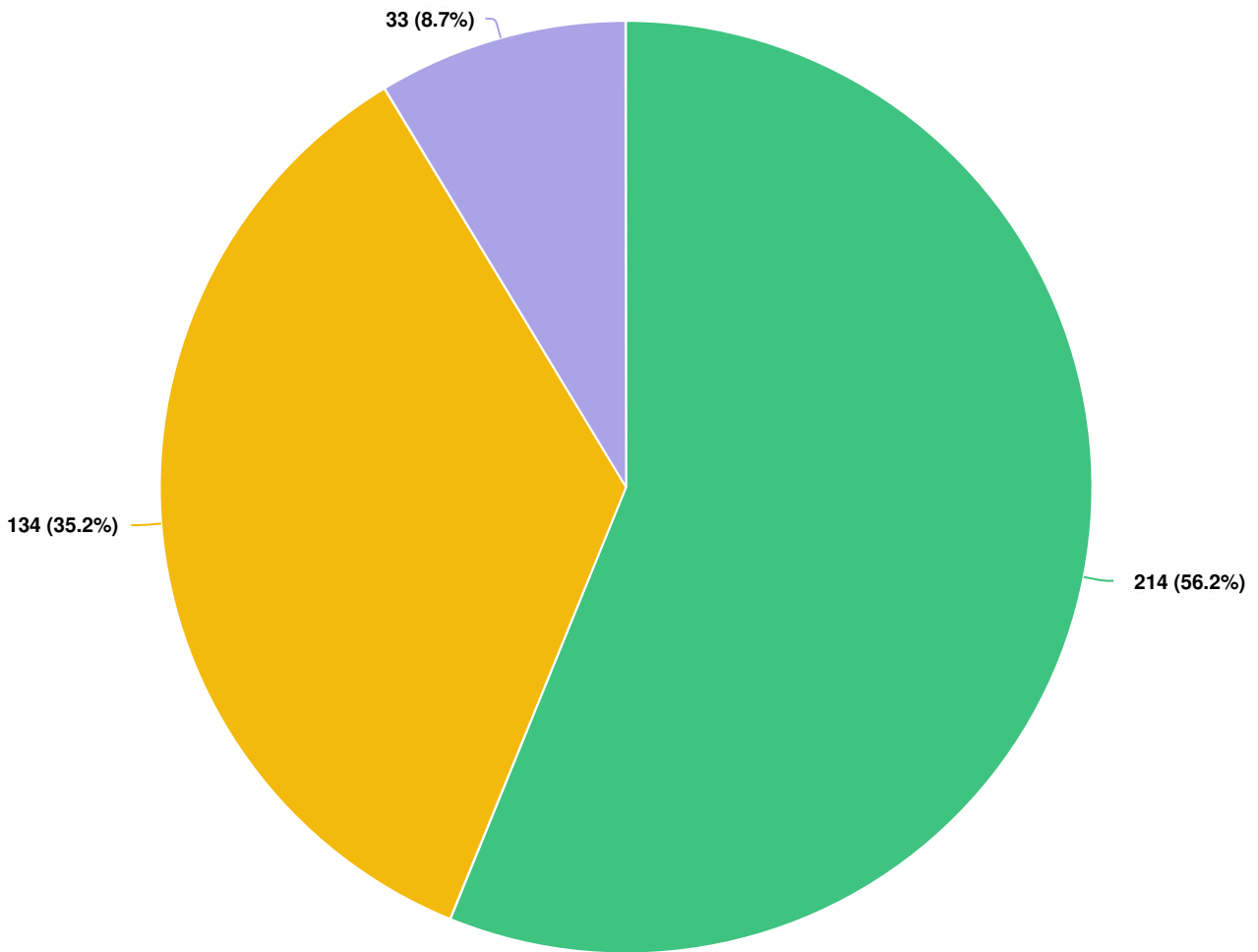


Question options

- Other (please specify)
- On behalf of a partner organisation
- An elected member
- A member of or on behalf of local community group
- A local resident

Optional question (382 response(s), 26 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q11 | What is your sex?

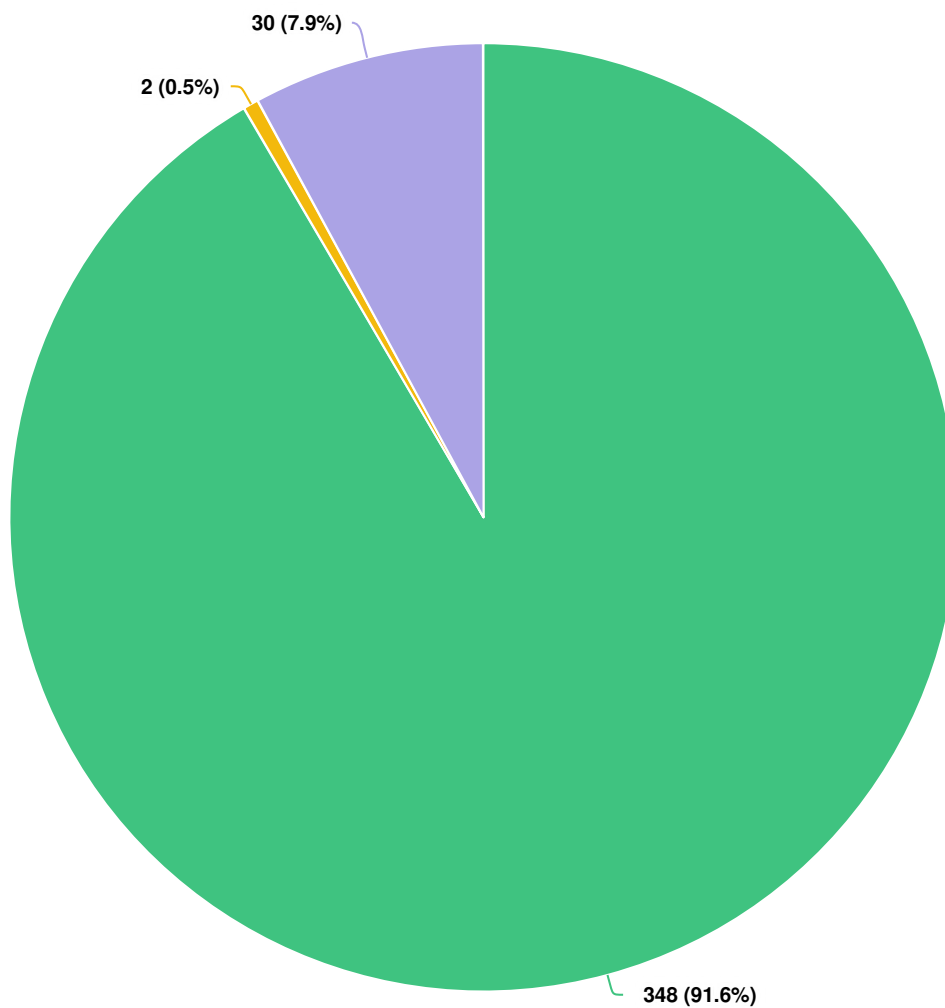


Question options

- Prefer not to say
- Male
- Female

Optional question (381 response(s), 27 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q12 | Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?



Question options

- Prefer not to say
- No
- Yes

Optional question (380 response(s), 28 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q13 | If no, how would you describe your gender?

Anonymous

1/25/2024 05:26 PM

NA

Anonymous

1/26/2024 05:08 PM

Constructed by society.

Anonymous

1/27/2024 04:41 PM

Mallorn

Anonymous

1/30/2024 04:48 PM

not applicable

Anonymous

2/01/2024 10:30 AM

Non binary

Anonymous

2/02/2024 11:03 PM

This really isn't relevant

Anonymous

2/14/2024 09:05 AM

Nothing to do with you

Anonymous

2/19/2024 09:06 AM

There are only 2 genders, male or female

Anonymous

3/04/2024 09:03 AM

Male

Anonymous

4/10/2024 02:17 AM

None of your business. Is this survey about tress or collecting data for woke issues????you'll find most residents are white and sexually straight. Start making the majority you priority. Which hole someone doesn't or does like it up is personal preferenc

Anonymous

4/10/2024 11:02 AM

Normal male or female

Anonymous

4/10/2024 01:01 PM

OAK BIG AND STRONG

Anonymous

4/10/2024 03:18 PM

Irrelevant

Anonymous

4/10/2024 05:26 PM

Oh please stop with these ridiculous question how many people did it take for you to make this survey up!!

Anonymous

4/17/2024 10:34 AM

Confused

Anonymous

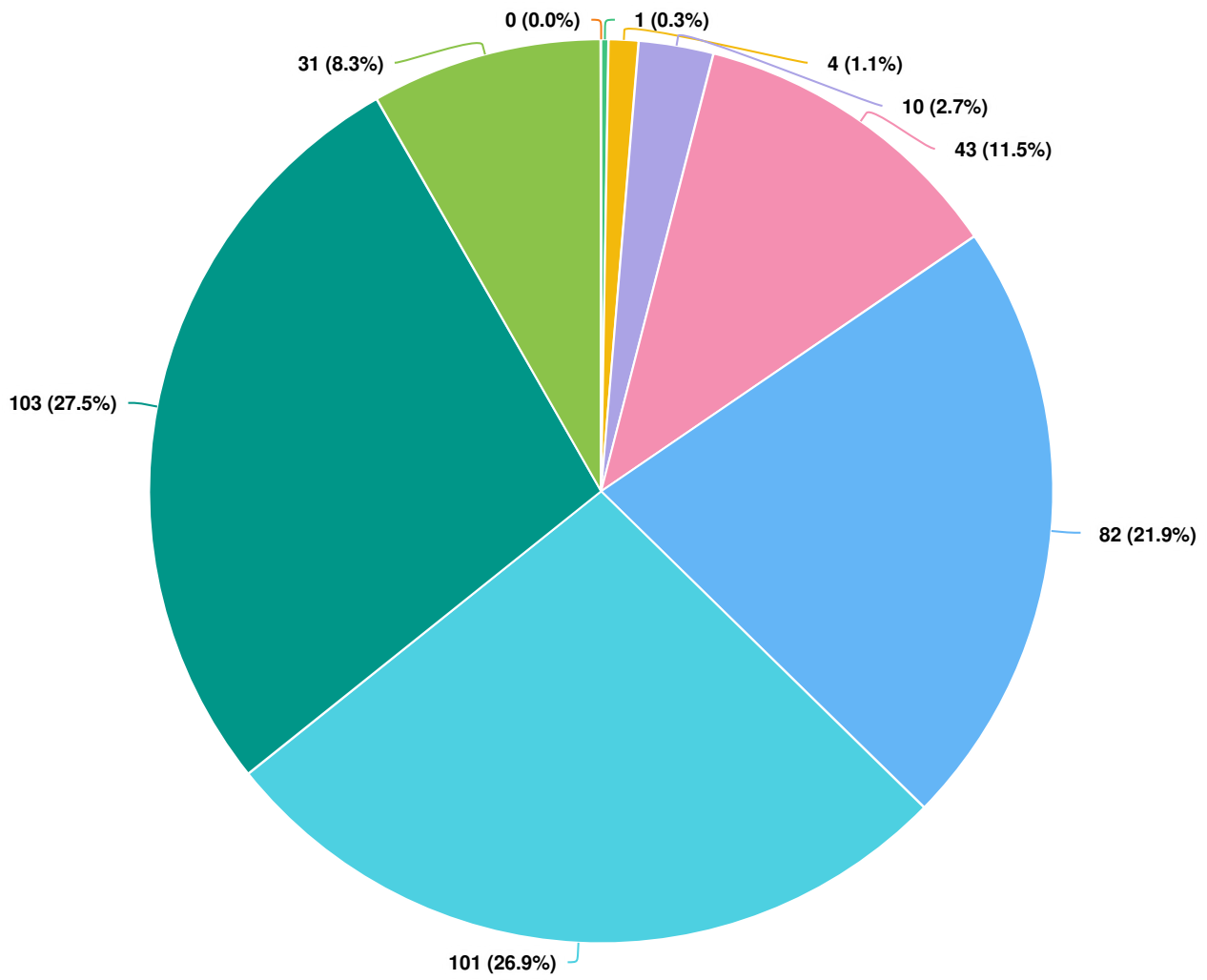
4/17/2024 10:28 PM

What does this have to do with trees or the Tree Strategy??

Optional question (16 response(s), 392 skipped)

Question type: Single Line Question

Q14 | How old are you?

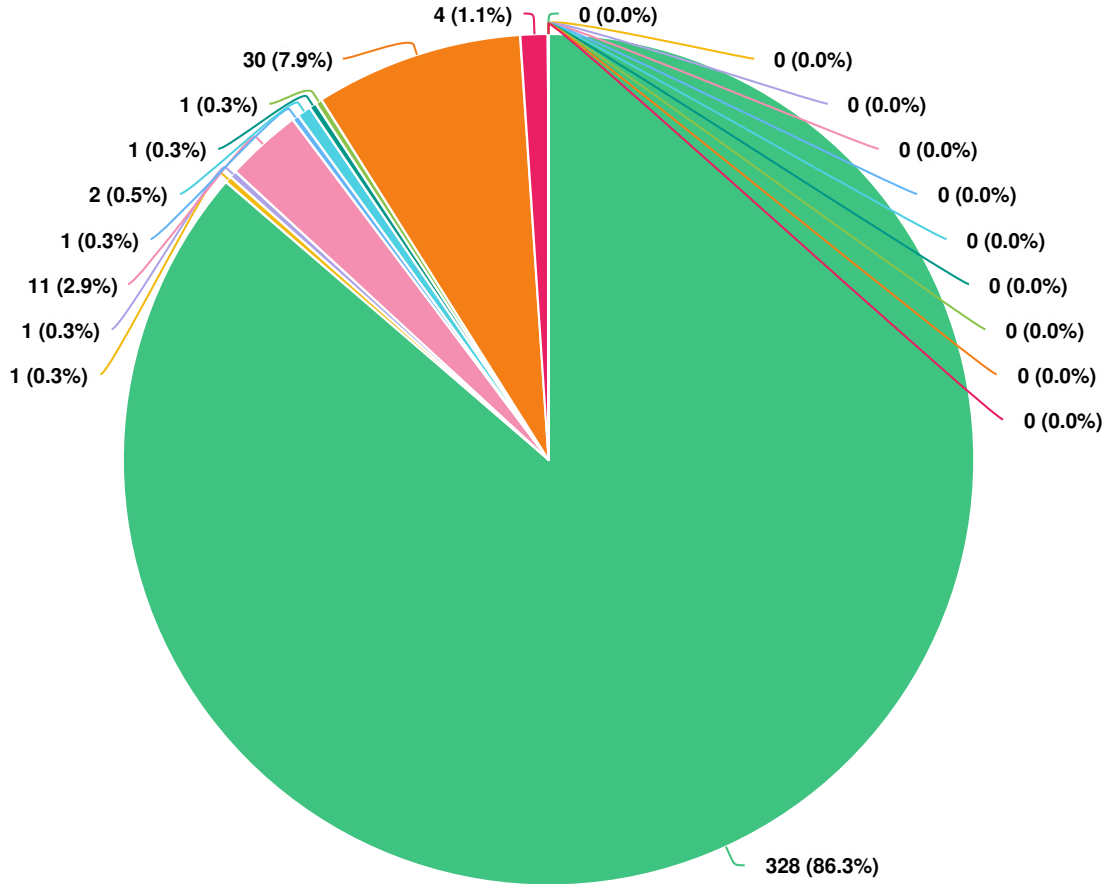


Question options

- Under 14
- 75+
- 65-74
- 55-64
- 45-54
- 35-44
- 25-34
- 20-24
- 15-19

Optional question (375 response(s), 33 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q15 | What is your ethnic group?

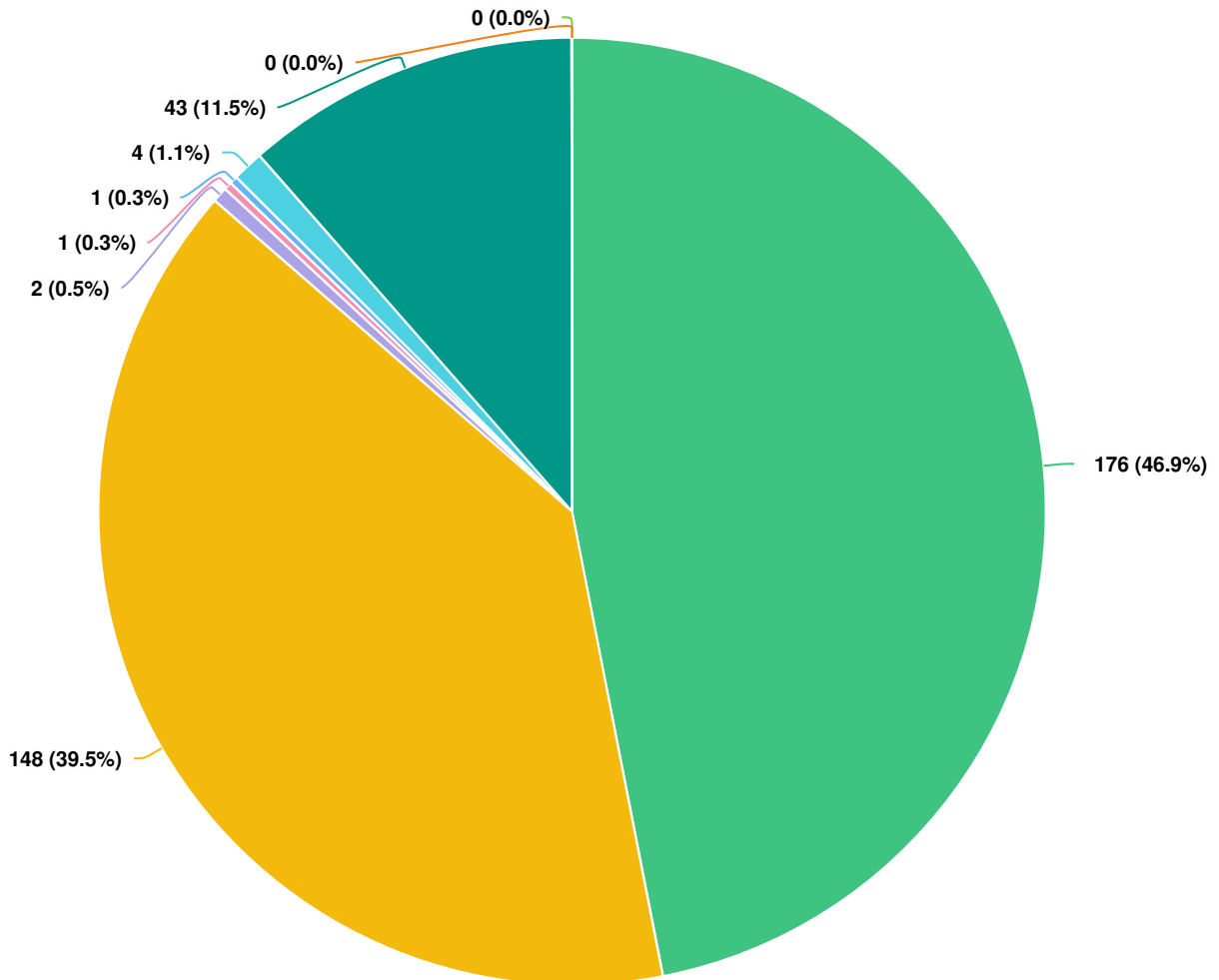


Question options

- Other ethnic group: Arab
- Any other Black, African or Caribbean background
- Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African: African
- Any other Asian background
- Asian or Asian Welsh/ British: Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian Welsh/ British: Pakistani
- Asian or Asian Welsh/ British: Indian
- Any other mixed or multiple ethnic background
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African
- White: Roma
- Other (please specify)
- Prefer not to say
- Black, Black Welsh, Black British, Caribbean or African: Caribbean
- Asian or Asian Welsh/ British: Chinese
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups : White and Asian
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean
- Any other white background
- White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- White: Irish
- White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British

Optional question (380 response(s), 28 skipped)
 Question type: Radio Button Question

Q16 What is your religion?

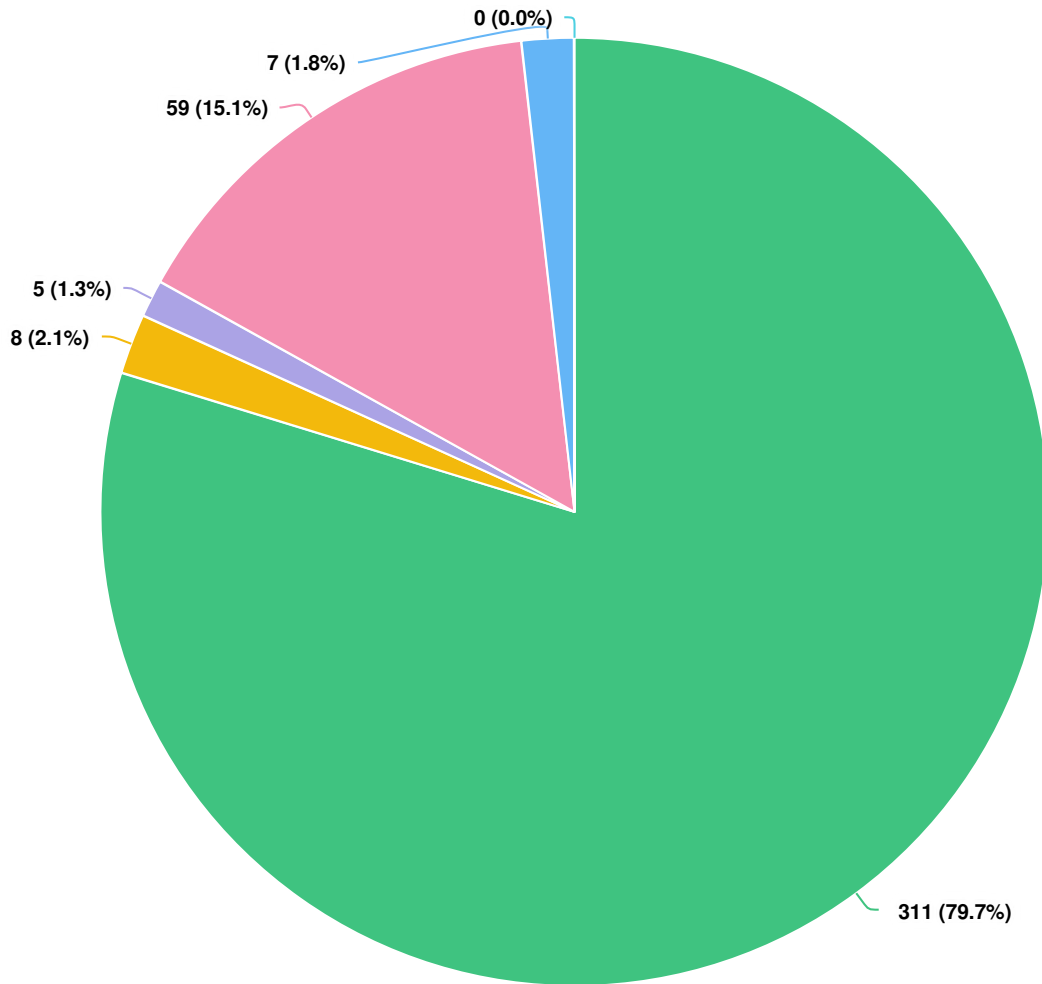


Question options

- Sikh
- Hindu
- Prefer not to say
- Any other religion
- Muslim
- Jewish
- Buddhist
- Christian (all denominations)
- No religion

Optional question (375 response(s), 33 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q17 Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?

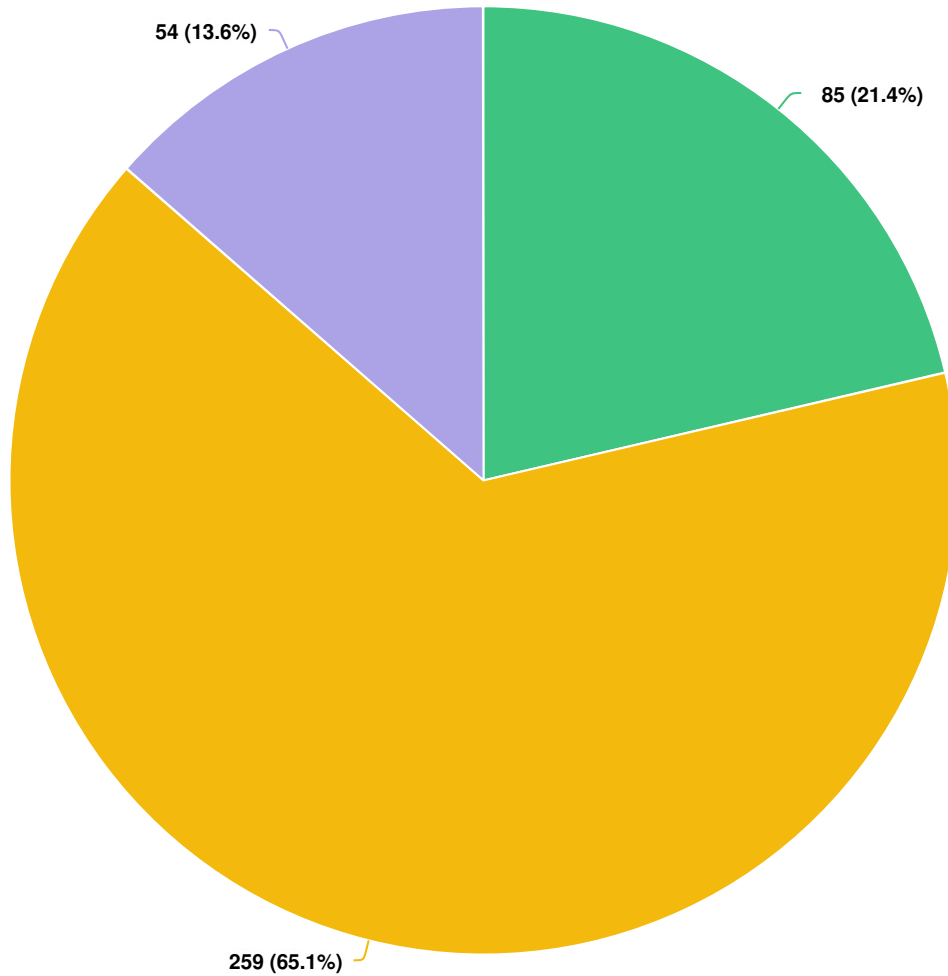


Question options

- Pansexual
- Other (please specify)
- Prefer not to say
- Bisexual
- Gay or lesbian
- Heterosexual / Straight

Optional question (390 response(s), 18 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q18 | Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses that are expected to last more than 12 months?



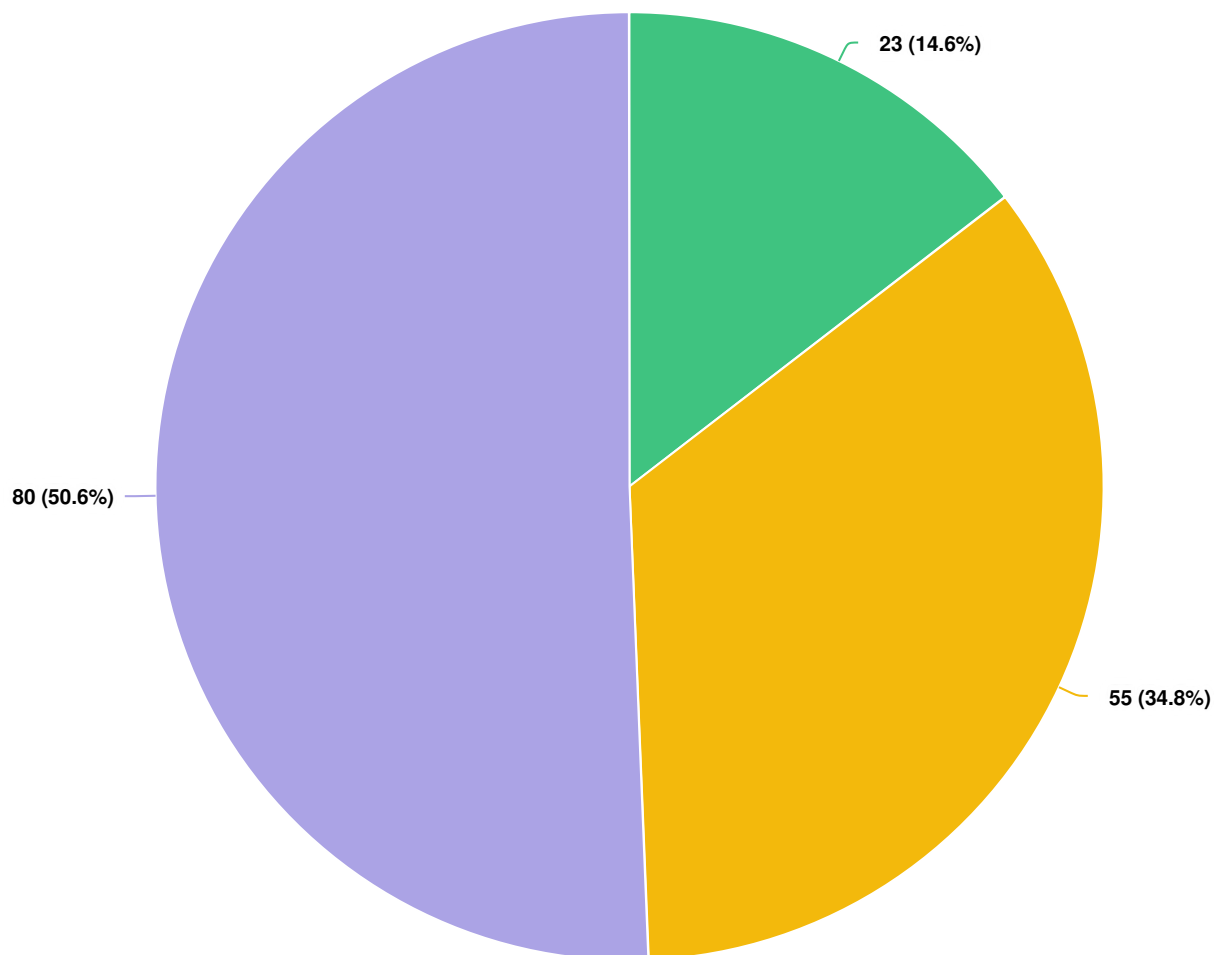
Question options

- Prefer not to say
- No
- Yes

Optional question (398 response(s), 10 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q19 | If yes, are you...?



Question options

- Not at all
- Limited a little
- Limited a lot

Optional question (158 response(s), 250 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Vale of Glamorgan Tree Strategy Consultation

Comments by Penarth Tree Forum (a subgroup of The Penarth Civic Society)

The Penarth Tree Forum strongly welcomes this consultation draft Tree Strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan Council. We are pleased to provide our carefully thought out comments. Several years ago the Civic Society prepared its own Tree Strategy for Penarth, and a Street Tree Action Plan, and submitted these to the Vale Council, together with our offer to support the council as far as we can in the preparation and implementation of its own Tree Strategy (TS).

We are pleased that many of the proposed actions we identified in our Tree Strategy for Penarth have been included in this draft, and we are particularly pleased that the Vale Council has been able to appoint an Arboricultural Officer.

We believe that with more work to address the aspects we present below the TS will provide the springboard needed for the Vale of Glamorgan to move to a new era where trees will play their part in addressing the social, economic and environmental challenges that lie ahead for us all.

We have based our comments on current best practice guidance as promoted by UK Government. However for more detailed guidance we would refer to:

- “Trees in the Townscape, a Guide for Delivery” by TDAG (Trees and Design Action Group) <https://www.tdag.org.uk/trees-in-the-townscape.html> and
- “Preparing Borough Tree and Woodland Strategies, Supplementary Planning Guidance”, by the Forestry Commission for the Mayor of London. See <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/planning/implementing-london-plan/london-plan-guidance-and-spgs/tree-and-woodland>

In addition we have trawled through the tree strategies of many local authorities in Wales and England, and would hold up two that we feel are worthy of special mention:

1. Flintshire Urban Tree and Woodland Plan. This is quoted by NRW as an exemplar of good practice, particularly in the way it uses data on canopy cover to prioritise areas for action. See <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Countryside--Coast/Tree/Tree-Plan.pdf>
2. Merton Council’s Tree Strategy. This was selected as one of two exemplars of best practice by the Mayor of London.

Merton Tree Strategy Part 1: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/design-conservation/trees/tree-strategy>

Merton	Case	Study:
https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/gla_migrate_files_destination/SPG%20Tree%20and%20Woodland%20case%20studies%20Feb-2013.pdf?token=-kTMbUbl		

On behalf of Penarth Civic Society, the Penarth Tree Forum looks forward to working with officers and elected members of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the citizens of the Vale to make ambitious progress with all aspects of the Tree Strategy – for our collective benefit and for those who follow after us.

We will be happy to meet with officers to elaborate on the views we express below.

We have submitted separately notes of the feedback from the Public Meeting hosted by Penarth Tree Forum and Gwyrddio Penarth Greening (GPG) held 14 March 2024.

Overall Summary Comments:

Overall we believe that the draft Tree Strategy (TS) is too inward focussed on the VoG own activity and land holding. Although opportunities for collaborative working are described later in the document, we would like to see the TS also covering trees in private ownership and those not on local authority land. Opportunities should be taken to involve the wider community in the final drafting of the TS and ultimately in the delivery of the Action Plan. In our view VoGC has a clear leadership role in the wider response to both climate and biodiversity emergencies.

We also strongly advocate that the TS should be driven by political leaders and chief officers, both in the adoption of the strategy and in the implementation of the Action Plan. **VoGC: Agree, this TS (once agreed by cabinet) will have been adopted by full cabinet and will be a VoGC strategy for all Directorates to engage with / adhere to.**

Our following comments refer to best practice guidance in the Tree Council's **Trees and Woodland Strategy Toolkit (TAWST)**. This supports local authorities with in-depth guidance to develop and deliver their own tree and woodland strategies. It explains how to build the political and community support that is vital to ensure that trees and woodlands are planted and protected.

We understand that NRW consider this DEFRA funded TAWST, although issued to English local authorities and not yet in Wales, to be “*high-quality and has application in Wales even though it has clearly been written for England. After careful consideration NRW may even recommend the toolkit for use in Wales but that work has yet to be initiated.*” (Written communication) We believe that it would be prudent for the Vale Council to follow this guidance as far as possible in the final drafting of their TS. See link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-tree-and-woodland-strategy-toolkit>

We present our comments on the draft TS under:

- Structural/strategic issues
- Detailed issues
- Annex - Subsidence, damage to buildings, and the Joint Mitigation Protocol

Structural/Strategic issues:

1. Ultimate Aim and Scope of the Strategy:

We believe that the VoG TS should cover the whole of the Vale treescape, and bring together all relevant stakeholders.

Whilst we accept that much of the strategy must focus on the Council’s own land holdings, we advocate a much bolder strategic approach, bringing together the private and voluntary sectors who can contribute to its aims. The Vale Council is in an unique position to show leadership and direction to all those who can play a part in this.

The Toolkit defines the ultimate aim of a TAWS as: “*to help local stakeholders to protect, grow and manage a healthy and resilient treescape across public and private land, ...*” And “*To be most effective, a TAWS should set the direction for the whole treescape*” **VoGC: as noted above this TAWS toolkit is not yet adopted in Wales by NRW.**

The VoG TS is more restricted in its scope, “*... covers trees growing on public land and adopted highway managed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council, as well as trees on private land where they are affected by national and local policies such as Tree Preservation Orders.*” **VoGC: the overriding scope will stay as-is, the VoGC tree strategy must focus its energies on its landholdings / estate, however, will work with external bodies / partners as and when possible.**

We welcome the commitment in the TS to work with a wide range of partners in tree planting schemes. In later parts, it does seem to address a wider audience, but this is not clearly set out as an overriding aim. The Vale Council, the community, businesses and other land-owning organisations will all play a part. The TS has the ability to bring these interests together into a concerted plan for action: **VoGC: Agree, Objective 4 will be modified to read: “Develop community involvement and continue to work closely with community groups, businesses and other land-owning organisations in dealing with tree related issues, including opportunities for grant aided funding.”** – note we currently work with orgs and landowners through various grant schemes e.g. LNP programme and Restore the Thaw program (No.1)

2. Identifying Stakeholders and Public Engagement.

We believe that the VoG Council should identify and engage with a wide range of stakeholders in the final re-drafting of the TS. The Civic Society will be pleased to assist in that process. – VoGC: Public consultation has now taken place plus additional comments received (such as this document) have been noted and addressed where applicable.

The Toolkit states (page 16) “As the treescape is owned, managed, and influenced by many individuals and groups, it is important to consider how to engage a range of stakeholders both within the local authority and those external to it. At the outset, map out who the relevant stakeholders are, what their priorities may be and what they can bring to the creation of a TAWS.”

In this respect the VoG TS seems to be much more limited – “It is a statement of the Council’s policies and procedures in relation to trees and their management.”

The Penarth Civic Society (PCS), working with Gwyrdio Penarth Greening (GPG), was pleased to organise a public meeting on 14 March, and we attach a summary of the main points that arose from discussions. We are not aware that any other stakeholder engagement has taken place: **VoGC: Public consultation process has now taken place plus additional comments received (such as this document) have been noted and addressed where applicable, the draft strategy was also shared with all T&CC.**

3. Gathering the Evidence.

We suggest that the background report to the VoG TS by Forest Research should be publicised more widely, particularly in the on-going public engagement in the final drafting of the TS.

The Toolkit details the types of evidence that should underpin a TAWS (page 29 on). The VoG draft TS is very good in this respect, as well as in the policy context and the value of trees. This is backed up by the excellent analysis and report by Forest Research.

It is not clear whether or not the Forest Research report forms part of the TS – **VoGC: The Forest Research Report does form part of the TS, it is noted within the action plan (Action 19) as the tool of canopy assessment after 10 years. The i-Tree methodology is recognised by NRW as an appropriate / affective tool to use.**

4. Creating a shared vision.

We believe that the VoG TS would benefit from a clear vision developed collaboratively by public participation.

Page 35 of the Toolkit gives detail on potential components of the vision, and page 37 details how to create a collaborative vision for a TAWS. It states:

“Developing a specific vision for your Trees and Woodland Strategy can help provide an overall strategic direction. It should explain the need for investment and management of your treescapes in a short and digestible statement and establish a shared understanding with stakeholders. ... Develop a vision collaboratively with your working group and carry out appropriate public consultation”.

We would like to see a much bolder vision, for example this from Flintshire Council Tree Plan: “The plan’s vision; To have a diverse and resilient tree canopy cover throughout Flintshire’s towns that is appreciated, managed sustainably, provides multiple benefits to people and the environment, and enhances biodiversity.”

To avoid delaying the launch of the Strategy, we suggest that this visioning exercise could be included as one of the early components of the Action Plan.

VoGC: We have a clear mission statement / vision within the TS: “We will protect, maintain and enhance our tree population for the multiple benefits to the environment and the people living, working and visiting the Vale - now & for future generations to come.”

5. Funding and Action.

We believe that the VoG TS should include an action to identify potential sources of funding as a precursor to its Action Plan. (Agree) – it is point 15 in our action plan, this Action plan wording will be modified to read: “Actively seek funding streams through third party organisations, external grant funds and internal grant funding opportunities to assist with planting more trees on Council land and to increase the town tree canopy”. (No.2)

Page 44 of the Toolkit states: *Delivering your strategy will require funding, an action plan, ongoing community engagement, coordinated activity, monitoring and evaluation.*

The VoG TS mentions the need for funding in several places.

This priority action to identify potential sources of funding should include unlocking new funding opportunities for tree planting and aftercare, from both central government (such as the Nature for Climate Fund), from private finance (i.e. sponsorship, carbon credits, biodiversity net gain, etc) or from charitable funding (i.e. The Tree Council, Woodland Trust, etc). We would strongly encourage bids that incorporate match funds.

To attract the attention of funders the TS needs to be far more aspirational. To increase the chances of successful bids the Strategy should be as much about what the Council aspires to do as what it can do with currently available funds.

We suggest that the Action Plan should be reviewed every year to report on progress and to review priorities. **VoGC: Agree, the action plan will be reviewed every year to check / report on progress and will have Performance Indicators allocated to all Directorates / Service areas.**

6. Canopy Cover.

We believe that the VoG TS should set a canopy cover target for local areas across all land ownerships that all potential partners can contribute to. VoGC: this would be very difficult to enforce on privately owned land, we can publish our targets and aspirations and work closely with interested third parties plus will work with landowners via LNP and other delegated officers to advise and help with future funding and canopy targets.

We believe that for the Vale Council to set a canopy cover target applying just to the Council’s own landholdings, although a bold commitment, is not helpful to the wider aims and priorities of the TS.

The canopy cover target could be an overall target for the whole Vale, **VoGC: Agree – we have already set a Vale wide target of increasing our canopy cover (on the VoGC estate) by 5% in 15 years – please note due to the consultation process it is recommended within the consultation cabinet report that this 5% is to be increased to 7.5%**

with individual targets for each of the urban areas depending on their current level: **VoGC – This would be very difficult to set, we will be aiming to increase the canopy of the urban low canopy cover areas identified within the I-tree survey and will also ensure, through live on site analysis of our estate and current and future available data we will increase planting at the most appropriate locations to ensure affective canopy increases.**

A canopy cover target should be in the form of an increase from and to, not as a percentage increase. **VoGC - Our target will be set as a percentage increase and will be based on the baseline data provided by the I-tree survey.**

The Canopy Cover Leaflet that accompanies the Toolkit (see <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/tree-canopy-cover-leaflet/>) recommends that a minimum standard for tree canopy cover is set for a local area, with evidence showing that 20% is a good aspiration, depending on the current level.

- *“Towns and cities should aspire to increase overall tree canopy cover from their current baseline.”*
- *“20% tree canopy cover can be a good aspiration for towns and cities, with 15% for coastal settlements which generally have lower tree populations.”*
- *“Tree canopy cover data can be compared with the Index of Multiple Deprivation to assess how equitable the cover is across a town.”*
- *“To target resources where towns and cities on average exceed 20%, focus on wards which have a shortfall”, we aren’t focusing on over 20%*
- *“Canopy cover is measured differently to green space as it is not an exclusive land use.”*

VoGC – This document is already referred to within the TS as a link within Appendix 1 and its content noted.

See also the NRW report on Town Tree Canopy Cover in the Vale of Glamorgan, which provides more detailed analysis of canopy cover according to land use and ward. The NRW Canopy Cover data was revised in 2018, and is freely available at no cost to the Council. See: <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/what-we-do/our-roles-and-responsibilities/green-spaces/urban-trees/?lang=en>

VoGC - We will be using resources such as this online map plus the i-Tree data to aid us in focusing on what areas within our low canopy towns need increased canopy most and target these areas.

7. Trees, Buildings and Structures

We strongly welcome the Council’s commitment to adopt the “Joint Mitigation Protocol” for use in handling claims for damage to buildings and structures alleged to be caused by Council owned trees. We do though have concerns over the proposed approach to implementing this, as it may result in the continued needless loss of mature trees and wastage of public money.

This relates mainly to the content of FAQ 11, 13 and appendix 5. There are errors in this that if not corrected will result in the continued needless loss of mature trees and wastage of public money. Our concerns are explained in more detail in the annex to this paper. More detail is in our “Tree Strategy for Penarth” and our “Street Tree Action Plan”. **In view of the importance of this issue, and its complexity we will seek a meeting with officers to discuss in more detail. We believe that this is a major challenge for the implementation of the TS VoGC – This meeting has taken place (17/6/24) and concerns discussed.**

8. Corporate Responsibility

We believe that the adoption and implementation of the TS should be on a cross-cutting basis.

We are very concerned that the TS does not address implementation on a cross-cutting basis across all service areas with responsibility for trees. Implementation of a robust Tree Strategy will require the lead department having authority to work extensively with and have a significant influence over all relevant Council service areas. This will be essential to increase the planting of trees, to secure funding and to ensure sectors beyond the Local Authority are fully engaged – **VoGC – This is a VoGC strategy for all Directorates to engage with / adhere to.**

Detailed Issues and Comments:

1. **Canopy cover for Penarth.** The TS shows the estimated canopy cover for Penarth is 21.2%, as measured by i-Tree Eco. The previous measurement by the NRW method in 2018 was 17.6% (down from 17.8% in 2013). This points to a discrepancy that should be resolved. Two totally different measurement methods were used for the two surveys. Canopy Cover is primarily a significant issue for urban areas, where the fine grain of the area renders the i-Tree Eco sampling method less accurate than the NRW satellite survey method. We believe that the

NRW method gives more accurate and reliable results at the urban scale, as well as the ability link canopy cover to land use. – **VoGC The i-Tree methodology is recognised by NRW and WG and used widely across all local authority areas this is the data we are working with but will use other resources available to resolve low canopy issues.**

2. **Page 3:** “This Tree Strategy will help inform and develop future opportunities to prevent tree loss across the Vale and the Council achieve its objectives.”

Comment – “prevent tree loss” is only part of what is needed – **VoGC – Agree – this paragraph will be modified to read: “..this Tree Strategy will help inform and develop future opportunities to prevent tree loss, increase tree stock and increase canopy cover across the Vale and aid the Council in achieving its objectives.” (No.3)**

The TS should include:

- Plant more trees - **VoGC – See Principle 5 of TS: “Commit to plant a minimum of 1500 trees annually, which will include a minimum of 500 standards (2m tall trees), in predetermined targeted areas (right tree, right place), across the Council estate.”**
- Improved tree management techniques – **VoGC - We will ensure best Arboricultural practice is followed any works undertaken on trees within the VoGC tree stock.**
- Avoid the unnecessary loss of mature trees – **VoGC - See objectives point 1 of TS: “Protect and enhance the current tree stock.”** Also see TS page 6: **“The Council will protect and enhance the tree stock while remaining sympathetic to the interests of residents. We will also seek to ensure that the tree stock is managed in such a way that continuity of tree cover will be safe-guarded, and improved, for future generations”.**

3. **Page 4:** “The Council will focus its efforts on actively protecting and increasing tree cover on its land.”

Comment - We need a target increase in canopy cover across the county, not just on Council owned land. The strategy should include for engagement with all potential actors – **VoGC - this would be very difficult to enforce on privately owned land, we can publish our targets and aspirations and work closely with interested third parties plus will work with landowners via LNP and other delegated officers to advise and help with future funding and canopy targets.**

4. **Page 7:** commitments to tree planting should include a commitment to maintenance during the establishment period – **VoGC – this is the case, and this is a commitment**

5. **Page 8:** Objectives - “Ensure that all tree related decisions and activities are made in a consistent and structured way across all Council departments.”

Comment – this is a bold commitment, that we welcome. Details of how this will work will have to be developed by the Council. Will the TS become Council Policy? - **VoGC – Yes, This is a VoGC strategy for all Directorates to engage with / adhere to.**

6. **Page 8:** “Establish a healthy and diverse tree population maintaining tree numbers and canopy cover wherever possible.”

Comment – the aim should be “Expanding” not “maintaining” **VoGC – Agree – this paragraph will be modified to read: “Establish a healthy and diverse tree population maintaining tree numbers and canopy cover and expanding wherever possible..” (No.4)**

7. **Page 8:** “influence and encourage developers”. We would suggest that a more robust approach to this will be needed with appropriate enforcement where required – **VoGC – agree, this will be led by planning.**

8. **Page 16:** “active participation projects including the Friends Tree Initiative, a Tree Warden Scheme and tree planting initiatives. Details of such initiatives will be promoted on the Council’s website and other media.”

Comment - a good example of the VoG TS engaging with the community. This community partnership aim should be written into earlier sections to make the TS less exclusive to the VoG, and demonstrated by relevant stakeholders such as Penarth Tree Forum, Replant Rhooose, Replant Llantwit and Barry Action for Nature – **VoGC – Agree – add to page 6/7 Objectives: “The Council will continue to engage / closely work with community groups and relevant stakeholders to progress active participation projects (with such groups being: Penarth Tree Forum, Replant Rhooose, Replant Llantwit and Barry Action for Nature)”** (No.5)

9. **Page 16:** “This Strategy seeks to identify planting opportunities closer to the highway, wherever possible, particularly in areas where tree cover is low.”?
Comment – this seems to exclude planting within the highway, and conflicts with page 19 – “... recognising that street trees offer benefits, opportunities to plant trees will be pursued in street locations, particularly in areas where trees have been removed, subject to available resources.”
The section of the TS needs to be strengthened and made more specific, such as highway land within the local street scene. Reversing the loss of street trees and the failure to replace them should be a strong priority – **VoGC – this does not exclude planting in the adopted highway (which is paved areas etc) it relates to planting as close to the Highway (with the Highway being the physical roadway / carriageway)**
10. **Page 16:** We would strongly encourage the inclusion in the TS of a Tree Sponsorship scheme, see [Trees For Streets <https://www.treesforstreets.org/how-it-works/#:~:text=The%20easiest%20place%20to%20plant,ask%20you%20for%20a%20contribution>](https://www.treesforstreets.org/how-it-works/#:~:text=The%20easiest%20place%20to%20plant,ask%20you%20for%20a%20contribution). Trees for Streets inform us that they will happily discuss their scheme with any new interested parties (written communication). **VoGC - Agree – an additional Action will be added to the TS, being: “Develop a Tree Sponsorship Scheme”. Please note, with regards to the Trees for Streets scheme, VoGC Officers have engaged with this scheme and the providers have state that this scheme can’t directly fund Local Authorities and need community councils / groups to engage.** (No.6)
11. **Page 18:** - Highway Trees. The NRW report on Tree Canopy Cover in the Vale of Glamorgan states: *“The loss of large long-lived trees is concerning. This maturing Victorian and Edwardian legacy, whilst at some point in need of replacement, does offer urban society the greatest benefits. The danger is that these trees are not being replaced and where they are, small, short-lived trees offering fewer overall benefits take their place. A consistent, resourced and planned approach is needed to protect and care for the Victorian and Edwardian legacy of large trees and to promote planting of large canopy specimens”*. The Civic Society shares this concern, and would like to see a stronger emphasis on this in the TS.
We advocate that the VoG should address age diversity of trees in streets (as it does currently in parks). A rolling programme of Street Tree replacement is crucial to future-proof the Victorian/Edwardian street tree legacy. **VoGC – agree – and this will be implemented where finance allow**
12. **Page 18:-** Comment - We don’t think that it is wise to include data from Green Blue Urban, it being a single commercial supplier, in a strategic document. We would suggest adding a reference to the publication “Trees in Hard Landscapes, a Guide for Delivery” by the Trees and Design Action Group. This is a non-commercial grouping of experts in their field who aim to promote best practice. <https://www.tdag.org.uk/trees-in-hard-landscapes.html> - **VoGC - Agree - will remove image and add: For examples of typical detail requirements for a tree set in a Highway footpath see: “Trees in Hard Landscapes, a Guide for Delivery”** <https://www.tdag.org.uk/trees-in-hard-landscapes.html> **No.7**

13. **Page 20:-** Working in Partnership – “To achieve the ambitious Vision set within this Strategy, the Council will work with communities, landowners, private sector, and other partnership organisations, to help ensure future success”.

And – “working with other bodies / individuals such as the Woodland Trust, NRW, landowners / farmers and organisations such as Penarth Civic Society, voluntary organisations and third sector.”

Comment – we strongly welcome this. It would help if this sentiment could be embedded in the earlier sections of the Strategy. The TS should seek to “*harness the enthusiasm of the community to assist and support the Council’s aims and commitments*”.

A series of guidance documents on the Council’s web site will be an important component of this. We will provide examples of where other local authorities have done this successfully. In particular we think that a best practice guide is needed on the topic of managing mature trees. This would demonstrate the Council’s own commitment to best practice, and would provide guidance for private landowners who commission management of their own trees. **VoGC -**

Agree

.....
Page 21 onwards:- Action Plan, Funding: –

14. **Page 21:-** Replacement Trees. we suggest adding “*commit to a rolling programme of street tree replacement for age diversity. Redevelop existing tree pits where feasible to restore avenue planting*” **VoGC – Agree – will add:** “*We will commit to a rolling programme of street tree replacement for age diversity. Redevelop existing tree pits where feasible to restore avenue planting subject to available funding and the specific case*”. **No. 8**

-
15. **Page 24, 25: -** “Enforcement action will be taken against anyone who damages Council trees.” “The Council will use its powers to prevent unnecessary damage to trees within all construction/development and pursue enforcement action where appropriate if trees are damaged or destroyed”. “Any unacceptable damage caused to trees will be pursued.”

Comment – what does “enforcement action” and “pursued” mean? These need to be more specific. Enforcement needs to be pursued rigorously, and be linked to potential fines based on the CAVAT value of the tree damaged. For example Islington Tree Policy states “*The council will seek compensation from any external organisation responsible for significant damage to or removal of any council owned tree(s) to the value as calculated by CAVAT.*”

VoGC – Agree – add the following to each paragraph (x3) stated above: “*The council will seek compensation from any external organisation responsible for significant damage to or removal of any council owned tree(s) to the value as calculated by CAVAT.*” **No.9**

16. **Page 26 -** Specification, Planting and Maintenance

Comment – need a comprehensive guidance document on this, both to state and apply good practice to VoG’s own works, and as guidance for the wider community to understand and follow.

This needs to include generic guidance on how to re-invigorate street trees that have been badly planted, severely over-pruned (“pollarded”), are not thriving, and that might stand a chance of recovering given the right treatment **VoGC Agree – Will add detail relating to best practice:**

“*For all planting and maintenance works we will be guided by: BS 3998:2010 Tree work. Recommendations, BS 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape. Recommendations, BS 3936-1:1992 Nursery stock. Specification for trees and shrubs*” **No. 10**

Highway improvements can and should involve tree planting wherever possible and should involve the Tree Officer in their design and delivery. Council employees should be encouraged to aspire to develop urban planting schemes in keeping with exemplar programmes that exist across the UK and Europe. – **VoGC – Agree – the VoGC Landscape Architects currently**

have an overview and the ability to comment on schemes being developed on VoGC land, going forward this will include the Senior Arboricultural Manger wherever possible.

17. Page 27 –

- Objective 4. We recommend that the VoG TS should include a commitment to consult local residents on any proposed felling of street trees, following as far as possible the guidelines published for England. Section 115 of the Environment Act imposes a statutory duty on local authorities in England to consult with local residents on the felling of street trees where no exemptions apply. – **VoGC – We would not consult on individual trees being removed, we will only remove trees as a last resort, if dead, unsafe, a proven H&S issue, or the proven cause and only financially viable option available relating to a 3rd party insurance claim.**
- Objective 8. Delete the word “Minimum”. It suggests that the clearance could be made much higher if someone wanted to – **VoGC – we will not remove this wording it stipulate the minimum height that is to be allowed on the carriage way due to bus routes etc.**
- Objective 12. Value of tree should be calculated according to the CAVAT value – **VoGC agree – will add “..with these costs being calculated by using the CAVAT value of the individual tree.” No.11**
- Objective 21. Delete the words “that is already broken or damaged.” Add “Tree roots will not normally penetrate an unbroken drain. If a drain is already broken, tree roots may penetrate it. The simple remedy is to repair the drain” **VoGC – Agree – will remove “.. that is already broken or damaged.” And add “Tree roots will not normally penetrate an unbroken drain. If a drain is already broken, tree roots may penetrate it. The simple remedy is to repair the drain”. No.12**
- Objective 24. It is also essential to consider the environmental, social and economic benefits that are required of tree planting. For example, air quality is worst along main roads and areas lacking green infrastructure. The Vale’s highways constitute 17% by area of towns and provide 12% of the canopy cover. We would like to see a stronger emphasis on highway trees in urban areas. Motorised traffic causes much of the urban air and surface water pollution, which trees have the ability to abate – **VoGC – Agree – we make canopy gains wherever possibly based on resources, data and community involvement.**
- Objective 25, and elsewhere in the document. We would like to see a more comprehensive approach to selection of the Right Place for tree planting. The NRW Town Tree Canopy Cover report provides a framework from which to commence. A method of balancing the environmental social and economic benefits is needed in order to select the right places to target for tree planting. (The right tree in the right place).
We advocate that tree planting schemes should follow the guidance in the Urban Tree Manual, to ensure “The Right Tree in the Right Place for a Resilient Future”.
See: <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/urban-tree-manual/>
See also: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/urban-tree-challenge-fund> - **VoGC - these links are already within the TS and will be used for guidance.**
- Objective 26:
 - These words should apply to all tree work, not just veteran trees. We would suggest one of a series of guidance documents focussed on tree management, and based on BS 3998. This would state how VoG will manage trees, as well as provide best practice guidance for the community.
 - We expect to see here details of how trees that have previously been Severely Pruned (“Pollarded”) will be restored to good health and good canopy structure. We maintain that the “Pollarding” method of reducing tree size, as practiced by the Vale Council, is not true pollarding at all. Indeed it is bad practice as defined by BS 3998. We urge the Vale Council to commence a programme of “Crown Restoration” to repair the damage that has been done to many trees in Penarth. We have recently provided a detailed paper to officers detailing our concerns. – **VoGC**

– Agree – will modify the wording to *“The Council will manage its tree stock sympathetically according to good arboriculture practice, striking a balance between public safety and biodiversity, following guidance (BS 3998)”*. No. 13

18. **Page 29** – Links. We suggest including a link to TDAG – Trees and Design Action Group. <https://www.tdag.org.uk/our-guides.html> **VoGC - Agree - will add to the “Links to Documents” Page No.14**
19. **Page 34, Action 15** – Funding. We suggest adding “creative use of match funds to boost purchasing power of available funds.” – **VoGC – Agree – we as an authority already do this and will continue to wherever and whenever possible.**
20. **Page 38** - FAQ 11, first para. This concerns damage to drains, and needs to be linked to Objective 21 – see comment on Objective 21 above – **VoGC – Agree – will add *“Tree roots will not normally penetrate an unbroken drain. If a drain is already broken, tree roots may penetrate it. The simple remedy is to repair the drain”*. No.15**
21. **Page 38, 39.** FAQ 11, second para. and FAQ 13, and Page 41, Appendix 5. These relate to damage by trees to structures and buildings. There are flaws and factual errors in these that if not corrected may result in the continued needless loss of mature trees and wastage of public money. These should be corrected before the TS goes public. We hope to be able to discuss these concerns with officers in more detail. The needless loss of mature trees is one of the main tree-related concerns of Penarth Residents. The Annex below explains our views in more detail, with supporting evidence.

ANNEX

Subsidence, damage to buildings and structures, and the Joint Mitigation Protocol

FAQ 11 (second para), FAQ 13 and Appendix 5

In our Tree Strategy for Penarth 2017 we included *“Proposition 19. That the Vale Council be encouraged to adopt a robust and evidence-based approach to the assessment of claims for the removal of trees due to subsidence claims. Also to adopt a value-assessment policy to the replacement or retention of trees subject to insurance claims.”*

We strongly welcome the commitment to adopt the Joint Mitigation Protocol. We have researched this in great detail and have discussed with the London Tree Officers who developed and operate the protocol. We explained it in detail in our Tree Strategy for Penarth.

Explanation:

The following notes attempt to add clarity to this issue:

The purpose of these notes on FAQ 11 (second para), FAQ 13 and Appendix 5 of the TS is to seek clarity around the issues of “direct” and “indirect damage” and the issue of subsidence of buildings. The direction from which these issues are approached will influence the understanding of the potential damage by trees to built structures.

The focus should be on subsidence, what to do if it occurs, and what to do if the tree is a suspected contributory factor. It is the subsidence that does the damage, not the tree; the subsidence may or may not be caused or aggravated by a nearby tree.

If the starting point for consideration is the focus on damage by trees, this will add to the popular misconception that if there is any damage to a building the tree must be to blame; this will lead to demands for the tree to be removed.

The Joint Mitigation Protocol is specifically for subsidence damage attributed to indirect damage by trees. It is not for use in cases of direct damage.

Paragraph 5.3 and 5.4 of the Civic Society Tree Strategy for Penarth gives much more detail about this issue, and should be referred to alongside this response.

Also, please see examples of Tree Strategies that correctly apply the JMP. See pages 24 to 29 of: <https://democracy.islington.gov.uk/Data/Executive/200910151930/Agenda/TREE%20POLICY%20V12.pdf>

And pages 17 to 20 of: https://www.merton.gov.uk/system/files/1110.64_TreeStrategy_low_res_FINAL.pdf

More details of the JMP, similar to the above, can be added to Appendix 5 of VoG TS once relevant staff have been trained and the systems are better understood.

Tree Roots and Buildings

VoG TS FAQ 11, second para, page 38, states:

“Tree roots can cause damage to paving, lawns and the foundations of buildings or walls.”

This is not correct; we suggest some minor re-wording of this section as follows:

“Tree roots can cause damage to paving, lawns and the foundations of light structures such as garden walls, conservatories, etc” **VoGC – Agree: will modify wording to: “Tree roots can cause damage to paving, lawns and the foundations of light structures such as garden walls, conservatories, etc”**
No.16

Explanation - Direct Damage. :

Tree roots do not exert sufficient pressure to dislodge the footings of a house or other heavily- loaded structure. Occasionally they will affect lighter structures such as garden walls, and when this occurs there are engineering solutions such as bridging the root with a lintel that allow both tree and wall to co-exist, but in general a tree root will not affect your house because the weight bearing down on the footings is too great.

Direct damage by trees to structures is damage caused by the mechanical action of any part of a tree in direct contact with part of a structure.

This contact may be constant such as a stem of a tree abutting a wall, or fleeting, such as a branch hitting a structure as it moves in wind or as it falls. The latter is rare and usually avoidable by light trimming back. It rarely justifies removal of a tree. The former is rare simply because trees are seldom allowed to develop and mature when in direct contact with a structure (other than boundary walls).

Tree roots encountering a solid object will normally divert and follow the course of least resistance, thereby causing no damage. The continuous physical expansion of tree roots can lift paving or cause cracks in freestanding walls etc. Due to the weight of a house no amount of physical expansion of roots will affect the foundations, but free-standing garden walls, fences, gates, patios, driveways and small structures such as conservatories, garages or outbuildings might be at risk. The internal floors of houses, particular Victorian and Edwardian houses, may also be affected. These floors are often laid directly on to the underlying soil, which will settle over time, and may be penetrated by tree roots. Such floors should be re-laid to modern standards, which will prevent any further damage or penetration by tree roots.

Direct damage by tree roots as listed above does not meet the definition of subsidence, and is not usually covered by your buildings insurance policy, unless the damage occurs at the same time as subsidence damage to your home. Such damage is often contributed to by inadequate or very old construction, generally outside of building regulations.

When such structural damage has occurred you should consider documenting this by getting a Chartered Structural Engineer to carry out a Structural Inspection.

The Building Research Establishment (BRE) Good Building Guides 13 and 14 give detailed guidance on surveying and building free-standing walls. The remedy is usually to prune roots only if absolutely necessary, and then to rebuild/repair the structure to a standard able to resist further damage by tree roots, for example, by incorporating a lintel to act as a bridge over the root.

Suggested wording for the TS:

We will not normally fell or prune a tree that is implicated in direct damage to structures. There is no need to reduce the transpiration of the tree so it is not necessary to prune or remove the tree to remedy direct damage. If there is a risk of branches of a Council owned tree impacting the superstructure of a building, we will remove or prune the relevant branches – **VoGC – Agree, will Add:** *“We will not normally fell or prune a tree that is implicated in direct damage to structures. There is no need to reduce the transpiration of the tree so it is not necessary to prune or remove the tree to remedy direct damage. If there is a risk of branches of a Council owned tree impacting the superstructure of a building, we will remove or prune the relevant branches.” No.17*

FAQ 13, page 38, 39 and Appendix 5

FAQ 13 states. *I have a big tree near my property. I am worried about the damage the roots may be doing to my house. What should I do?*

We should not encourage residents to worry about damage that may or may not happen due to a tree. They should start worrying when they see cracks in the walls of the house. We suggest that this be reworded similar to Islington Council, see <https://www.islington.gov.uk/physical-activity-parks-and-trees/looking-after-our-trees/subsidence>

Explanation – Indirect Damage and Subsidence

The TS has already dealt with the issue of Direct Damage in FAQ 11, amended as proposed above. Little is needed to be added to that.

The current question and response reinforces the popular misconception that if there is a tree, they can automatically expect damage to their house, and if there is any damage to a house, the cause must be the tree. This is not at all necessarily the case, and will often serve to prompt unfounded claims. We suggest shifting the emphasis from a focus on the tree to the issue of subsidence as follows:

Suggested words:

“Subsidence - is the downward movement of the ground supporting the building. Damage occurs because the movement is often uneven, causing cracks in walls, floors, and ceilings. The main cause of subsidence in the UK is the shrinkage in dry weather of clay soils which expand and contract with changes in their moisture content.” (source - ABI)

Trees are rarely the prime cause, particularly the only cause, of subsidence. Trees and other significant vegetation can worsen the effects of subsidence because they extract moisture from the soil through their roots. This results in “indirect damage” to buildings by trees.

Other factors such as damaged drainage and poor build quality can also cause subsidence.

Non-cohesive soils such as sand and gravel are not shrinkable, as their volume does not alter with a change in moisture content, and so structures on these soils should be unaffected by subsidence attributable to indirect damage by trees.

Heave takes place when previously dehydrated soil takes up water and swells. This can happen after the felling or removal of vegetation.

Subsidence is more common in Victorian and Edwardian houses as their foundations are shallower. This makes them more susceptible to damage from any seasonal movements in the ground.

Modern building standards mean that the risk to newer buildings tends to be isolated and they should not subside due to trees that were in existence at the time they were built.

Buildings naturally shrink and swell in response to changes in temperature and humidity, leading to minor cracks where walls and ceilings meet. New homes and recently built extensions often experience cracking as the structures settle under their own weight.

If you suspect your property has suffered from subsidence damage, contact your insurer as soon as possible.

If it is believed that a council-owned tree has contributed to the subsidence, your insurers will make contact with the Council and any other relevant parties to ascertain whether there is a legitimate claim. The insurer is responsible for producing detailed reports to corroborate the claim. For legal reasons we cannot comment on any claim made against the Council. Please direct any suspected claims to your Insurer and not the Council. The Tree Service will not have any direct contact with

the claimant. (Source – Islington Council. See <https://www.islington.gov.uk/physical-activity-parks-and-trees/looking-after-our-trees/subsidence>)

The VoG Council has committed to signing up to a specific subsidence protocol for dealing with subsidence-related tree root claims called the Joint Mitigation Protocol (JMP). This aims to improve the way and speed that subsidence claims are dealt with by councils and insurers. It also enables an agreement on whether the tree should be removed, pruned to reduce its water uptake, or left as it is, all depending on the proven damage to the house and also the value of the tree.

The principal aim of the JMP is to reduce the number and cost of tree root claims to local authorities, and to minimise the needless loss of mature trees. The benefits of these cost reductions will be enjoyed by both the local authority and insurers alike, but crucially not at the expense of losing from the town’s skyline one of its most recognisable assets, its trees. See Appendix 5 for more detail of the JMP. No.18

VoGC – Agree – will change wording from “Indirect Damage” to “Subsidence” and add the suggested wording above.

Appendix 5:

We have only 2 immediate comments on the wording of this section:

1. *“Residents who have concerns in regard to damage to property in relation to trees and vegetation would be advised to discuss with their insurance providers on such matters, additionally the Council are more than happy to discuss concerns raised.”*

Comment – we suggest deleting the words “*additionally the Council are more than happy to discuss concerns raised.*” We note from web sites of London boroughs who devised and operate the JMP the following wording:

“ Contact the company that you have building insurance cover with. They will make contact with the council and any other relevant parties to ascertain whether there is a legitimate claim. The insurer is responsible for producing detailed reports to corroborate the claim. For legal reasons we cannot comment on any claim made against the council. Please direct any suspected claims to your Insurer and not the Council. The Tree Service will not have any direct contact with the claimant.” **VoGC – Agree – will delete “*additionally the Council are more than happy to discuss concerns raised.*” and add “*Contact the company that you have building insurance cover with. They will make contact with the council and any other relevant parties to ascertain whether there is a legitimate claim. The insurer is responsible for producing detailed reports to corroborate the claim. For legal reasons we cannot comment on any claim made against the council. Please direct any suspected claims to your Insurer and not the Council. The Tree Service will not have any direct contact with the claimant.*”** No.19

2. *“This will be Council procedural guidance in dealing with all enquiries and claims regarding ~~direct and~~ indirect damage to property.”*

Comment – we understand that the JMP applies only to cases of alleged tree-induced subsidence, i.e. “indirect damage”. It does not apply to alleged direct damage. Remove the words “direct and”.

We suggest re-wording to:

“This will be Council procedural guidance in dealing with all enquiries and claims regarding subsidence damage to buildings in which a Council owned tree is alleged to be implicated. The JMP aims to improve the way and speed that subsidence claims are dealt with by councils and insurers.”

VoGC – Agree – will re-word to “*This will be Council procedural guidance in dealing with all enquiries and claims regarding subsidence damage to buildings in which a Council owned tree is alleged to be implicated. The JMP aims to improve the way and speed that subsidence claims are dealt with by councils and insurers.*” No.20

Gwyrddio Penarth Greening (GPG) and Penarth Tree Forum (PTF)
With Penarth Civic Society
Public Meeting – 14th March 2024
Trees in Penarth
Feedback from small groups

Points made in the six small group discussions (Grouped under themes):

Economic benefits of trees should be emphasised in the Strategy as well as the health, well-being and environmental benefits:

- Evidence that trees planted in town centres attract people to the streets. Benefits of trees are economic – they have an economic value to the shops and cafes in the town.
- Strong economy is essential to the area.
- Street trees enhance residential property values.

Links with planning – particularly around residential developments in and around Penarth:

- Links between the Vale's Tree Officer and the Council's Planning Department should be strengthened. This is an important missing link. Vital that the Tree Strategy influences the policies and activities of all Departments in the Vale, e.g. Planning, Education, Highways, Neighbourhood and Environment etc.
- All the Local Authority's Departments should be working together including the Council's Planning Department.
- Planning – lack of joined up thinking. Trees should be given more importance.
- What is the target for private residential developers contributing to the Vale's target for new trees?
- How will Section 106 monies contribute to achieving the aims of the Strategy?
- If the objectives of the Vale Tree Strategy are to be achieved - Section 106 agreements on the area of planting need to be more flexible.
- New trees should be planted in all new residential developments, e.g. new housing planned for Cosmeston.

Street Trees:

- Street trees have been poorly maintained in recent years – now we have a dedicated Tree Officer in the Vale there is hope for the future regarding maintenance.
- When will street trees be replaced in Penarth? Not specified in the Strategy – it's a real gap as more and more street trees are felled and not replaced.
- Would like to see a target of 50% of street trees replaced within x number of years.
- What about build outs for street trees in the town? To ensure space for pedestrians be sure to take the space away from cars instead. Look at the rain gardens in the Grangetown area of Cardiff.
- Tree roots damaging pavements is a problem for pedestrians. Council should be using build outs into the road (see them in Grangetown, Cardiff).
- When street trees are chopped down – keep pits (don't cover) - then plant a replacement tree (the right tree for that spot).
- It's a problem that stumps not being removed and street trees are not being replaced.

- Another group states that stumps are not a problem and their removal can cause problems, e.g. subsistence. They provide habitats for insects - bio-diversity.
- The Tree Strategy should include action on making the pavements around street trees smoother and easier to negotiate for pedestrians. Recent efforts to remove pavement slabs around some street trees are welcomed.

Essential for addressing climate change and mitigating the worst effects:

- Hearing about the benefits of trees with regard to climate change = future proofing.
- Provide shade and cooling effect. Riding a bike through parts of Cardiff feels cool because of street trees. Evidence of cooling effect is proven.
- No mention in the draft Strategy of trees as a future food source – we have to grow food locally as part of our efforts to tackle climate change - this should be reflected in the Strategy (link to Net Zero).

Working with the local community:

- We need volunteers across the Vale to help with the maintenance – better support and info sharing with all community groups should be reflected in the Tree Strategy.
- Education is important. Sharing information on the benefits of trees in relation to bio-diversity, economic, health and tackling climate change – should be included in the Strategy.
- We need to change mindsets and ensure future generations are educated about the value of trees.
- The Strategy should include action to promote a positive image of trees (heading off objections before they surface). The Vale should be pro-active and sensitive to objections to planting of trees.
- What is the Vale's approach to tree vandalism – can't see it in the Strategy?

Implementation and accountability:

- Strategy needs an Implementation Plan especially with regards to influencing planning decisions.
- Need for follow up maintenance and the monitoring of the health and welfare of the tree stock.
- How will progress on the Tree Strategy be monitored and evaluated? Where does accountability sit? (x2)
- Be good to see local councillors signing up to support and uphold the Strategy.
- Council should explain why specific trees are cut down.
- The national, all Wales strategy 'Woodland for Wales' has indicators – Vale's tree strategy should include similar indicators so that they can be held accountable.
- What does Welsh Government say about this? The implementation of the strategy should be monitored.

Other Positives:

- Good to hear about the work of local groups working with the Council.
- Good to see the Council commit to a tree strategy and appointing a tree officer.

- Better maintenance will be good to see.

Other Concerns/Ideas:

- Planning – integral – get some teeth!
- Use Section 106 money for trees
- Review LDP
- Communicate better. Increase the targets.
- 5% target is not ambitious enough - natural regeneration should be encouraged where possible.
- The 5% target is too low an ambition and too far ahead – include performance indicators along the 15 years
- Look for additional funding e.g. via community groups, private sponsorships, section 106 money, grants and trusts (X2)
- Not enough detail on what canopy might be composed of, e.g. the role of commercial trees?
- Would like to see something in the Strategy on encouraging the planting of trees in people's front gardens – can help with the street scape in the absence of street trees.
- Include bio diversity targets that the Vale has to achieve and emphasise the role of trees in meeting those targets.
- Penarth Town Council policy on trees – does it have one? Should be consistent with the Vale's strategy.
- Leaves not being cleared – blocking drains and gutters – some residents gather up the leaves outside their homes – other people won't.
- Funding of a bolder vision which, for example, includes replacing street trees in Penarth, will be a challenge. Creative funding initiatives will be important.

VoGC – All of the above comments have been noted and incorporated within the themes discussed within the Consultation cabinet report.

Response to VoG draft Tree Strategy

April 2024

FoE Barry&Vale welcome the Vale Council's draft Tree Strategy

The Vale's new Tree Strategy is very welcome. After years of mature tree felling, our urban tree cover has steadily decreased. Replacement planting by saplings requires years of growth and can fail through drought or pests.

The new strategy is based on an expert study of what's needed in the Vale to face the twin emergencies of climate change and nature degradation. It says we should measure the tree 'canopy', rather than numbers of trees, and strive to save all mature and veteran trees instead of finding excuses like poor health or potentially 'unsafe' to remove them.

Managing street trees by trimming and crown raising, not severe pollarding, can prolong their lives while retaining the canopy. Planting on pavements may cause damage as the roots swell while it's costly to avoid services laid there. Instead say FoE, build-outs to the pavement can be used as the sites for new street trees. Many roads like Jenner Rd, Colcot Rd and Gladstone Rd are quite wide enough to take build-outs compatible with parking spaces. The long walk on Harbour Rd to Barry Island needs trees for shade and interest.

Shade during heat waves would be welcome around the sides and centre of Barry Island's car parks as well as the town streets. The Strategy says Barry, Rhoose and St Athan have rather little tree cover, the canopy being given as 6-8% compared with the urban average of about 20% in many towns.

The Vale Council appointed a tree officer 6 months ago and allocated £100k per year budget. That's a welcome start, but only a start, in view of the big deficit that's been accumulating. The nature emergency shows a need for impact within a few years. Adapting to climate change by mitigating the temperature on streets during heat waves is urgent.

----- *Published in the local press 11 April 2024*

Further Points and Suggestions

The i-Tree Eco software is adapted from the USDA forest service and seems to lack a lot of inputs appropriate to UK trees and conditions. Its numerical outputs have a degree of uncertainty; with no tests for robustness, they have to be taken with reservations.

the £-values given to benefits have spurious precision, (seem to be in 2015 values); the air filtering benefit applies to city/London levels of air pollution, and no value is given to reducing urban temperature (heat-island effect) and direct shading in heat-waves. The low drainage figure is for evaporation from leaves and not the enhanced infiltration through trees penetration of the urban asphalt.

measuring tree canopy via photography is a direct method, more secure than from tree counts and applicable to individual towns. Use needs correcting for variation due to rainfall (and month).

the crucial derived figures on tree canopy per locality in the present study are based on too few samples and uncertain assumptions on size and species distribution from a model whose dataset is incomplete. The 2018 study of canopies in southern Britain assessed 51 singleton trees of oak, ash and plane species. Trees grown in woodland or clumps have more cramped canopies.

the plot-by-plot manual counting of trees has to assume av. leaf area per species per size-band, so is inaccurate compared with direct measurement via the photographic method. Extending data collected for only oak, ash and plane trees to the range of trees in VoG towns is fraught with uncertainty (checking with the Bridgend and Cardiff studies is unmentioned).

the "importance values" (Figure 8) imply the canopy of a silver birch is hardly less than of sycamore and cypress, yet a birch's lateral spread and shade intensity are intuitively lower. Figure 8 implies it's 30% of a horse chestnut, whose lateral spread is much greater. We agree that large stature trees, such as English oak and horse chestnut provide larger leaf area, making their retention important for canopy measure.

No allowance is made for the pollarding which the VoG has pursued in respect of street trees. Their canopies are severely reduced (average year) so i-Tree Eco has substantially overcounted them. - **VoGC - The Forest Research Report, i-Tree methodology is recognised by NRW and WG and used widely across all local authority areas this is the data we are working with, however we will use other resources and data available to resolve / analyse low canopy issues.**

Proposing to re-measure by the same method every 10 years is a) labour intensive and b) too infrequent for policy adjustment. Repeat assessment per 5yrs should be based on the photographic method, which will become increasingly automated and in future based on aerial surveying - **VoGC – As noted above, The Forest Research Report, i-Tree methodology is recognised by NRW and WG and used widely across all local authority areas this is the data we are working with, however we will use other resources and data available to resolve / analyse low canopy issues.**

the target 5% increase in canopy over 15 years makes no sense. It's supposed to allow for loss via ash die-back of mainly rural trees, so separate assessment of ash trees is needed, with their resilience against die-back very uncertain. We need separate targets for towns irrespective of rural ash trees – **VoGC – based on the consultation process and feedback it is being recommended to increase this 5% figure to 7.5%**

Penarth's high 21.2% canopy figure is questionable

- a) similar figure to Cowbridge and Murch (Table 9), but many fewer trees per ha. (48 v. 65, 73)
- b) Penarth is high in silver birch (12.8% - 2.4 times the urban average) while Murch has a lot of ash (give heavy shading). i-Tree Eco seems to over-count the canopy of silver birch trees.
- c) Penarth streets have horse chestnuts and other large trees (older housing areas) which i-Tree Eco over-counts, in ignoring pollarding and the trimming of lower spreading branches ('crown raising').

We therefore challenge the finding of over 20% canopy for Penarth. it would mean that the town gets no priority for increasing its canopy cover. Yet, unlike Murch (and St Athan), Penarth has a shopping centre which requires summertime shading, while the town is large enough to suffer from the urban-heat addition during heat-waves. The % canopy should be found, or at least checked photographically before being used to prioritise towns for planting – **VoGC - Our base-line data to assess our canopy was the i-Tree data, this methodology will be used to re-assess at year 10, however we will continue to use all and any available resources to pin point low canopy zones within all towns and, where funding allows, plant within these spaces.**

We conclude

Tree planting on the Council estate (parks, schools and highways) should not be based mainly on the report's tree-canopy figures. The i-Tree Eco estimates need to be checked

against photographic analysis. It's not on to wait 10 years to repeat the i-Tree Eco counts; policy should increase trees in all the towns, with some emphasis on species with larger canopies. **VoGC: Our base-line data to assess our canopy was the i-Tree data, this methodology will be used to re-assess at year 10, however we will continue to use all and any available resources to pin point low canopy zones within all towns and, where funding allows, plant within these spaces.**

The report lacks assessment of tree species supporting insects and invertebrates, though "nature recovery" requires this. Can we have a further study to give guidance on planting trees for supporting nature recovery in the wider sense? As we're in a "nature emergency", weight should be given to fast-growing species – Buddleia and not oak – **VoGC – Agree – note: the VoGC Ecology team are continually working on nature recovery in the wider sense and will be fully engaged in the Tree Strategy, its targets and outcomes and "Right Tree Right Place" associated with nature recovery.**

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Friends of the Earth Barry&Vale

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

WORKING TOGETHER
FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

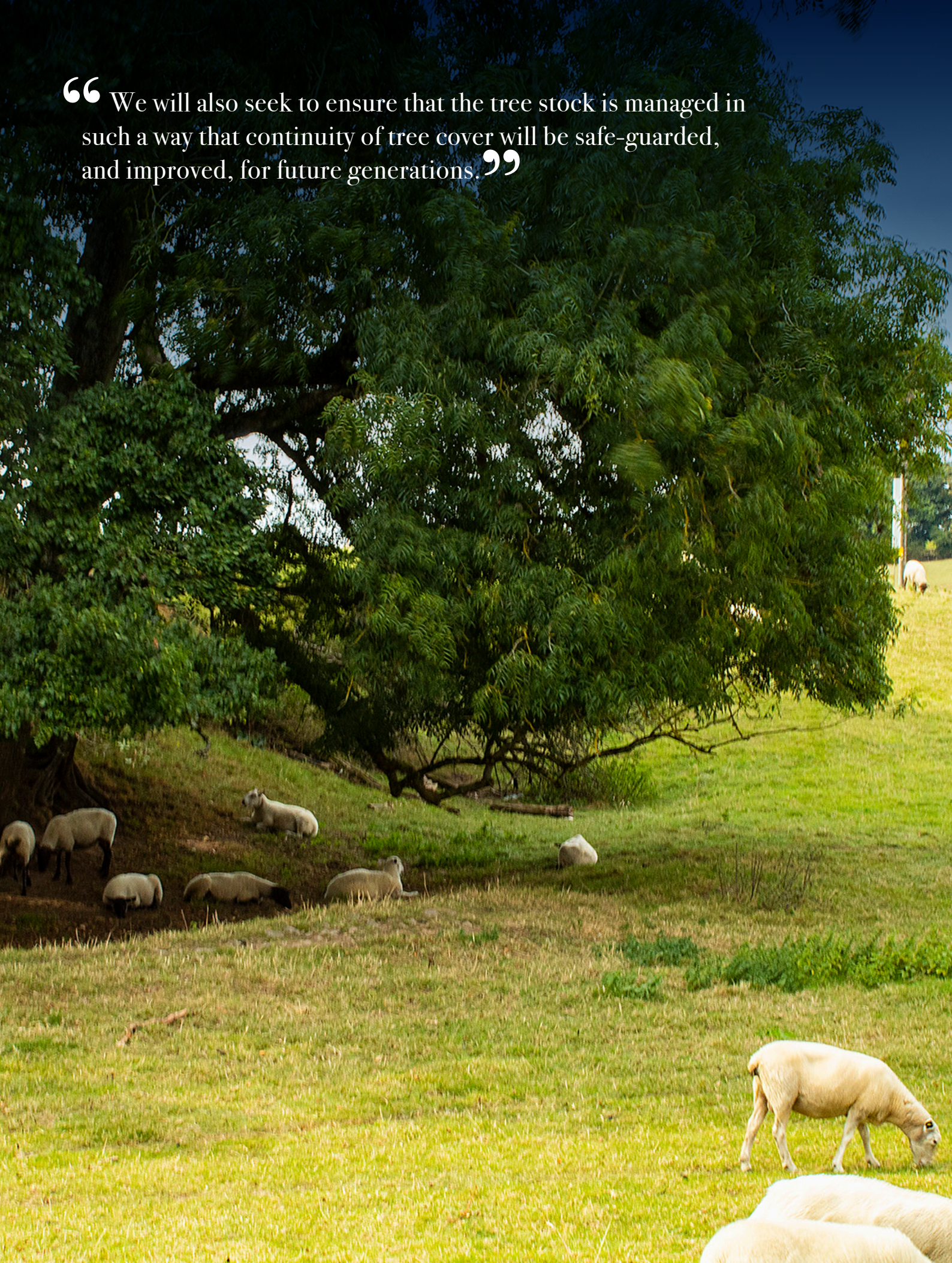
TREE STRATEGY

2024-2039

REV.2



“ We will also seek to ensure that the tree stock is managed in such a way that continuity of tree cover will be safe-guarded, and improved, for future generations.”





We are delighted to introduce a Tree Strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan which provides a framework for the sustainable management of the trees up to 2039 (15 years).

Trees and woodlands are an essential part of the Vale's Green Infrastructure and help identify and define the character of communities and areas where we live, work and play.

Like all local authorities, we have a duty to protect our natural heritage and recognise our trees as a valuable asset. It is widely accepted that trees and woodlands, particularly those around our towns have a vital role to play in promoting healthy communities. We manage large numbers of trees both directly and indirectly, ensuring their protection and enhancement to offer the many benefits they provide both individuals and our communities now and for future generations to come.

In addition, responding to the Climate emergency is a key priority for the Council and we have sought to build on a firm foundation of work that has been undertaken over a number of years to address the challenge of climate change in the Vale of Glamorgan.

This commitment is reflected in our Corporate Plan, covering 2020-2025, which includes a Wellbeing Objective focused specifically on the environment. Detail on how we will take forward specific work to address climate change is also set out in our Annual Delivery Plan.

Therefore, a great deal of activity has taken place, or is planned, to tackle climate change in our area,

this Tree Strategy will help inform and develop future opportunities to prevent tree loss across the Vale and the Council achieve its objectives.

"this Tree Strategy will help inform and develop future opportunities to prevent tree loss, increase tree stock and increase canopy cover across the Vale and aid the Council in achieving its objectives."

This Strategy has been subject to consultation and the Council has listened to the views expressed. As a result, several changes have been made to the Plan throughout the consultation process. As Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services, and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places we would like to thank all of those who have contributed to the development of this important document.

Cllr. Mark Wilson
Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood
and Building Services

Cllr Bronwen Brooks
Deputy Leader and Cabinet
Member for Sustainable Places

Amd.
No.3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In July 2019, the Vale of Glamorgan Council joined the Welsh Government and other Local Authorities across the UK in declaring a Climate Emergency in response to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report into the impact of global warming.

In addition to this in July 2021, the Council declared a Nature Emergency following the 'State of Nature 2019' National Biodiversity Network (NBN) report that found that 8% of tree species found in Wales (523) are threatened with extinction from Britain, 17% (666) are threatened with extinction from Wales and 73 have already become extinct.

The Council have delivered this Tree Strategy as trees, woodlands and hedgerows have a vital role in addressing climate extremes and the loss of biodiversity. This strategy will look at how we protect, manage and increase our tree canopy cover to build resilience, address climate change and biodiversity loss as trees are integral to our environment and have a key role in tracking climate change.

Trees are a cost-effective way to improve the environmental quality within our towns and villages, delivering physical, social wellbeing and economic benefits, as well as mitigating biodiversity loss, climate change, carbon storage, air quality, storm water management and improving amenity value.

The annual benefit of the eco-system service provision of our current urban tree stock has been estimated at £2.05m, with a replacement structural value of a £126m.

In considering trees and planning for the future, we will need to ensure that trees are recognised as public assets, rather than liabilities. The Council will focus its efforts on actively protecting and increasing tree cover on its land, with a commitment to increase canopy cover by 5% **7.5%** over the next 15 years, ensuring that the right tree is planted in the right place.

“ The Council’s commitment to both the Climate Emergency and the Nature Emergency will mean that all actions and policies of the Council will need to take into consideration the impact on both the climate and biodiversity within the Vale of Glamorgan. ”





WHY DO WE NEED A TREE STRATEGY?

Trees and Woodlands form an important part of both the urban and rural landscapes of the Vale of Glamorgan. The Council takes pride that it has responsibility for an area with many landscapes where trees are an important part of the environment.

“Over recent years research has shown the many benefits trees bring to social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being, with improvements to local air quality, reduced summer temperatures, increasing water retention and thus reducing localised flooding caused by ‘run off’ and improving mental health and well-being.”



With climatic conditions clearly changing and more frequent extreme weather events predicted, protecting, managing and enhancing our existing tree asset and setting targets to increase the tree canopy cover, is essential.

The Council is responsible for many thousands of trees. However, town tree canopy cover for the Vale of Glamorgan as a whole is 13% compared with the Welsh average 16.3% with a varied picture of canopy cover and tree management practices in different areas of the Vale. Tree cover has continued to decline and there is a disparity between areas, particularly within deprived areas, as highlighted in the Natural Resources Wales Report ‘*Town Tree Cover in the Vale of Glamorgan*’.¹

There are challenges in retaining current urban tree canopy cover or increasing this cover generally. This is due to footway damage that has been caused by existing trees and constraints on space available, including underground utility apparatus in urban environments, restricting opportunities to plant new trees and making it expensive. Many of the urban trees have suffered from reduced levels of maintenance, leading to structural weaknesses and tree health issues.

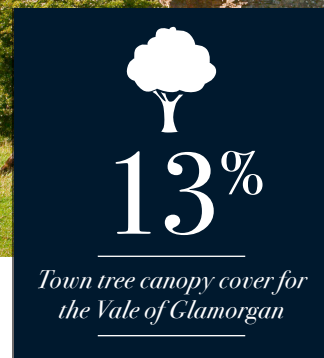
Trees add to the landscapes of our towns, villages and countryside creating visual interest through their shape, bark, leaf colours, flowers, fruit and seeds. They mark the passing of the seasons and are bastions of history, reflecting civic pride and the

culture of the past. The ancient churchyard Yew, the parkland Horse Chestnuts and the Victorian planted avenues of Plane and Lime and hedgerows planted with a variety of native tree and shrub species were all planted or allowed to grow on by our ancestors.

When added together with our local green spaces, river corridors, road verges, railway lines, allotments and gardens there is a significant green network within our towns and villages that has the potential to be good for both people and wildlife. Ensuring that our green networks are protected and managed with increased tree cover where appropriate is essential for future generations.

In looking forward the Council and other organisations, communities, businesses and individuals need to plan for the future so that we can have a more significant, varied and better managed treescape in the Vale of Glamorgan.

This Strategy, which is supported by an action plan, sets out the strategic framework for the management of trees across the Vale of Glamorgan for the next 15 years to 2039. It has been prepared with reference to local, regional and national policies and guidance and will complement the emerging Green Infrastructure Strategy being developed for the Vale of Glamorgan.



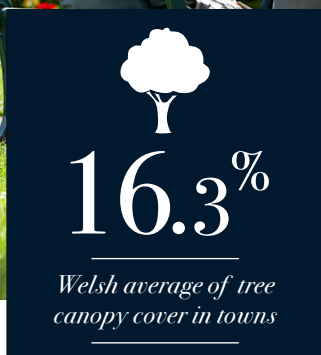
The Green Infrastructure policy will inform where maximum gains can be developed, enabling the Council to achieve its future aims and objectives.

Through appropriate management of existing trees and targeted tree planting programmes, the Council will seek to reverse the trend of the continuing loss of tree canopy cover.

The Council will protect and enhance the tree stock while remaining sympathetic to the interests of residents. We will also seek to ensure that the tree stock is managed in such a way that continuity of tree cover will be safe-guarded, and improved, for future generations.

The tree lined streets and parks are an attractive feature of the Vale of Glamorgan and have helped enhance the quality of life for generations. The continued maintenance and enhancement of trees is a key priority to ensure that the area remains an attractive and pleasant place for the future.

The Tree Strategy will develop and evolve as and when new data and information is obtained and as such the Strategy will develop further when the Council has developed a Green Infrastructure Strategy (approx. 2025).



THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN TREE STRATEGY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Tree Strategy covers trees growing on public land and adopted highway managed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council, as well as trees on private land where they are affected by national and local policies such as Tree Preservation Orders.

The Strategy's guiding PRINCIPLES are to:

- Commit to protect and care for our tree stock.
- Commit to work to retain existing mature tree stock, wherever possible in both public and private settings.
- Commit to identify suitable locations across the Council's land holding where additional tree planting can be accommodated, without detriment to the existing habitats.
- Commit to ensure that trees that are lost are replaced in greater numbers by planting a minimum of 2 trees for every one removed within the urban environment and develop a sliding scale of mitigation based on the extent of tree loss.
- Commit to plant a minimum of 1500 trees annually, which will include a minimum of 500 standards (*2m tall trees*), in predetermined targeted areas (right tree, right place), across the Council estate.
- Commit to develop tree planting schemes/natural regeneration.
- Commit to ensure that the right tree is planted in the right place.
- Commit to increase urban street canopy cover within the built adopted Highway year on year.
- Commit to a net increase in canopy cover in urban areas on Council owned land by 5% **7.5%** by 2039.

All the above would have to be quantifiable and measurable to evidence targets were being met and this would need financial provisions.

Objectives:

- Protect and enhance the current tree stock.
- Ensure that the Council has an accurate database of its tree stock.
- Raise awareness of the Council's tree stock and the environmental and social benefits it provides.



“ We will protect, maintain and enhance our tree population for the multiple benefits to the environment and the people living, working and visiting the Vale - now & for future generations to come. ”

Mission Statement



Amd.
No.1

- Ensure that all tree related decisions and activities are made in a consistent and structured way across all Council departments.

- Develop community involvement in tree related issues, including opportunities for grant aided funding.

“Develop community involvement and continue to work closely with community groups, businesses and other land-owning organisations in dealing with tree related issues, including opportunities for grant aided funding.”

- Increase tree planting and natural regeneration on Local Authority land and influence tree planting on new developments and private land through the planning system and the provision of grants.
- Prioritise increasing canopy cover in areas identified in the i.Tree survey with less than 10% cover.
- Prioritise tree planting in urban areas with the highest levels of deprivation.

Amd.
No.4

- Establish a healthy and diverse tree population maintaining tree numbers and canopy cover wherever possible.

“Establish a healthy and diverse tree population maintaining tree numbers and canopy cover and expanding wherever possible..”

- Take into account the current and future changes in climate and manage the tree stock accordingly.
- Ensure that there is diverse species coverage to increase resilience and mitigate against future tree disease.
- Ensure that the right tree is planted in the right place.
- Deal with queries relating to trees from stakeholders in a consistent and effective manner.
- Protect the Council from any third-party risks associated with trees.

Amd.
No.5

- *“The Council will continue to engage /closely work with community groups and relevant stakeholders to progress active participation projects (with such groups being: Penarth Tree Forum, Replant Rhoose, Replant Llantwit and Barry Action for Nature)”.*

- Ensure all operational staff have received Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) training.

(<https://www.qtra.co.uk/>)

The Strategy is intended to be a live document, with measurable aims and objectives. It is a statement of the Council’s policies and procedures in relation to trees and their management.

This Strategy will be subject to a bi-annual review, particularly in the event of changes in environmental, cultural or social needs. The future Green Infrastructure Strategy will inform where maximum gains can be developed, enabling the Council to achieve its future aims and objectives.



Objectives:

INCREASING
TREE
CANOPY

DEVELOP
COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT

DIVERSE
SPECIES

QUALIFIED
STAFF

TREE
PLANTING
SCHEMES

CONSIDER
CLIMATE
CHANGES

The Strategy will also look at how we as a Council can influence and encourage developers to safeguard and retain existing trees and to plant trees as a matter of priority, particularly in new housing developments or major infrastructure projects.



POLICY CONTEXT

The **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** contains well-being goals that public bodies, including local authorities, must work to achieve. One of the seven well-being goals is to maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecological resilience.

More recently, the **Environment (Wales) Act 2016** has put in place the legislation needed to plan and manage Wales's natural resources in a more proactive, sustainable and joined-up manner.

The planting and sustainable management of urban trees clearly meets with these Acts and the Welsh Government's overarching goal of taking care of the environment.

The Council has a statutory duty of care under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the occupiers Liability Act 1957 and 1984 to ensure that members of the public and employees are not put at risk because of any failure by the Council to take all reasonable precautions to ensure their safety. A Risk Assessment is required under the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999. There is a need to inspect trees in or near public places, or adjacent to buildings or working areas to assess whether they represent a risk to life or property, and to take remedial action as appropriate.

The Welsh Government published **Woodlands for Wales** in 2018, updating an earlier version from 2001. The Strategy sets out an ambition of increasing woodland cover by 2,000 ha per annum and for tree cover to increase elsewhere as well as the following aims:

- Woodlands and trees are used more creatively in the green infrastructure in and around urban areas to provide people with better quality, easily accessible green space.
- Local authorities and others further develop their programmes of urban tree planting and woodland management and use the i-Tree Eco or similar tools to quantify the structure and environmental effects of urban trees and calculate their value to society.
- Communities are more involved in the decision making and management of woodlands and trees so that they deliver well-being benefits to more people.
- More people of all ages and backgrounds benefit from accessible woodland and trees as settings for education, learning and play, leading to an improved understanding of woodlands and trees and the wider benefits they provide in terms of our environmental, economic, social and cultural well-being, and more sustainable.



In March 2020, the First Minister for Wales announced the **National Forest for Wales** which would be a connected ecological network running throughout Wales and will play an important role in protecting nature and addressing biodiversity loss. The ambition is to create new woodlands and to maintain and restore ancient woodlands.

In November 2020, 14 sites were identified across Wales as the start of the National Forest. Grant aid was provided in 2021 to stimulate new woodland planting, due to the success of the pilot scheme Welsh Government opened a new round of funding in June 2022, under The Woodland Investment Scheme (TWIG), it is anticipated that will continue in future years.

I-Tree Eco – 2021

The Natural Resources Wales '**Tree Cover in Wales' Towns and Cities**' was set up to provide baseline information for every local authority and suggest ways forward that would help increase the tree cover. The Report for the Vale of Glamorgan was published in 2017. The Report shows a decline in both tree cover and the number of mature trees in the Vale in the period 2009 – 2013. Clearly setting goals for increasing tree cover and identifying opportunities on both public and private land are recommended as ways of responding to the loss and the need to redress it.

The Council has since commissioned an i.Tree survey of the Vale (*see Appendix 1*) to provide an update picture of canopy cover in 2021/22. The Survey shows that the Vale's current urban canopy cover is 13%, a slight increase on the previous report carried out and the rural areas having 14% canopy cover. This Survey provides vital background evidence for this Strategy.

The Council has devised this Strategy so that it focuses on local needs and demand but which also helps deliver the wider aims at a regional and national levels in relation to trees, nature and climate.

The national, regional and local policy documents that have assisted in the development of this Strategy are at Appendix 1.

THE VALUE OF TREES

Trees provide a range of benefits that can be both direct and indirect. These benefits can be broken down into environmental, cultural, social, economic and health and wellbeing.

Reducing Air Pollution



Street trees improve air quality by absorbing pollutants and intercepting harmful particulates.



Building Communities

Getting residents involved in caring for their trees helps them re-connect with their neighbours.

Fighting Climate Change



Increasing tree cover in towns and cities by just 10% can keep surface temperatures at current levels despite climate change.

(University of Manchester)



Boosting Health

Research shows that children who live in tree-lined streets have lower rates of asthma.

(Columbia University, USA)

Improving Image



Street trees improve the image of our neighbourhoods and make them even better places to live, work and invest.

Benefiting Wildlife

As well as being great for people, street trees also offer much needed habitat for wildlife too.



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Tackling climate change and reducing air pollution

Trees can help reduce overall exposure to air pollutants harmful to human health, such as nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) through absorption or interception. Trees can also reduce local temperatures which reduces the rate at which some pollutants (e.g. ozone, O₃) are formed. With appropriate species selection and planting design trees and hedges can decrease air pollution by trapping dust and absorbing air pollutants such as ozone and particulates. This is especially important along busy transport corridors shared by vehicles cyclists and pedestrians.

It is estimated that the Vale of Glamorgan's urban forest removes **36 tonnes** of airborne pollutants each year, including NO₂/NO_x (nitrogen dioxide/oxides of nitrogen), O₃ (ozone), SO₂ (sulphur dioxide), CO (carbon monoxide)

and PM (particulate matter) (for further information on sources and health implications of these pollutants, see iTree report). Ozone is removed in the greatest quantity, with over **24 tonnes** removed per year.

The annual removal of airborne pollutants by trees in the Vale of Glamorgan's urban forest is valued at **£212,481** per year.

This Tree Strategy will feed into the Vale of Glamorgan Council's climate change challenge plan. This Plan sets out the Council's commitment to achieving net zero by 2030 as a Council and net zero by 2050 as a country.

Project Zero Challenge Plan (valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).

Carbon Storage & sequestration

Reducing CO₂ emissions could help reduce the impact of climate change. CO₂ can be removed from the atmosphere by trees and stored within their woody components. These trees can continue to isolate carbon throughout their lifetime. In the UK it is estimated that trees remove four million tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere each year.

It is estimated that the Vale of Glamorgan's urban forest stores a total of **57,314 tonnes** of carbon and sequester **1,977 tonnes** annually. 1 Tonne of CO₂ is equivalent to 85% of the average annual mileage (6,800 miles) for a small petrol car in the United Kingdom.

Producing Oxygen

The process of photosynthesis in plants including trees takes in carbon dioxide and this results in the release of oxygen purifying the atmosphere.

Mitigation of climate change

Trees provide natural shade in hot weather, shelter from prevailing winds and reducing the need to use energy for air conditioning and heating.

Trees and Flooding

As well as protecting and enhancing the urban environment trees and green spaces can provide complimentary benefits to surface water management.

These benefits are mainly through:

- Transpiration – through their leaves trees evaporate water into the air and thus reduce water in the soil around their roots.
- Interception – reducing the amount of water that reaches the ground by absorbing rain through leaves.
- Increased infiltration and attenuation of water – tree roots, and the soil in the planting pits, increase the capacity of the ground to hold water by keeping the soil structure open. The retained water can be used by the tree or will infiltrate into the surrounding ground.
- Phytoremediation – using plants to turn harmful chemicals into less harmful substances e.g. trees taking in carbon monoxide from vehicle exhausts, storing the carbon and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere.

A variety of engineering techniques are available to manage surface water but planting with a range of tree pits and planters can collect and slow down the flow of water in heavy storm events.

Future maintenance is also an important issue that needs to be considered to ensure trees remain healthy and continue to deliver surface water management benefits. Trees can

also assist in managing erosion along slopes adjacent to rivers or roads. For guidance, please refer to the SuDS manual (section 19). *See link - Item Detail* (ciria.org).

Depending on the scale of wider works associated with a planting scheme, tree pits could be part of a wider SuDS scheme requiring SAB approval. In which case the entire SuDS strategy would have to be in accordance with the Statutory standards for sustainable drainage systems in Wales, available [here](#).

Trees in the Vale of Glamorgan's urban forest intercept an estimated 78,438m³ of rain fall per year, this saves £135,838 in avoided sewerage charges.

Benefitting Wildlife

Trees play a vital role in our urban ecosystem, providing many benefits for wildlife. Birds, bats, mammals and invertebrates use trees, scrub and hedgerows as roosts, nesting sites and feeding areas, while deadwood associated with these habitats is valuable for a variety of organisms such as bacteria, insects, lichens and fungi which help decompose the deadwood. The Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) and the Councils Biodiversity Forward Plan aim to conserve and enhance our natural environment to protect these species and habitats and leave a legacy for future generations. The NRAP consists of a series of plans for priority habitats and species which are considered to be under threat locally and nationally. There are several woodland and plantation sites within the Vale that are important in biodiversity terms with many designated as Local Nature Reserves, Sites of Importance for Nature Conversation and so forth.

Any planned work on trees or woodland on Council land will take account of the NRAP/Biodiversity Forward Plan /Environment (Wales) Act and will work towards helping the Council meet its aims and objectives. This consideration will also be given when providing advice, guidance and planning recommendations provided to private landowners.



Cultural & Social Benefits

Trees are important for setting the context for everyday living, for providing a link to the past and for marking the passage of time through seasonal changes. In many locations they can be distinctive and local landmarks.

Landscape value and features are important to cities with trees and hedges adding to this value by providing physical features such as historical boundaries, rides and woodlands. Trees have an architectural and place-making role. On a local level they can improve the quality of our environment by screening, enhancing the sense of scale, reducing glare from buildings and hard surfaces, directing pedestrians, slowing vehicular traffic. They bring colour and character to our urban and rural areas.

- Providing amenity, aesthetic value and historical continuity. Many of the Victorian centres of towns in the Vale are notable for their street trees whilst in parks and churchyards there are many veteran trees. Maintaining this heritage requires good tree management and a programme of continued planting to ensure continuity.
- Marking the changing seasons with leaf changes, leaf fall and floral displays
- Symbolising community focal points
- Encouraging walking and cycling through the creation of more attractive routes

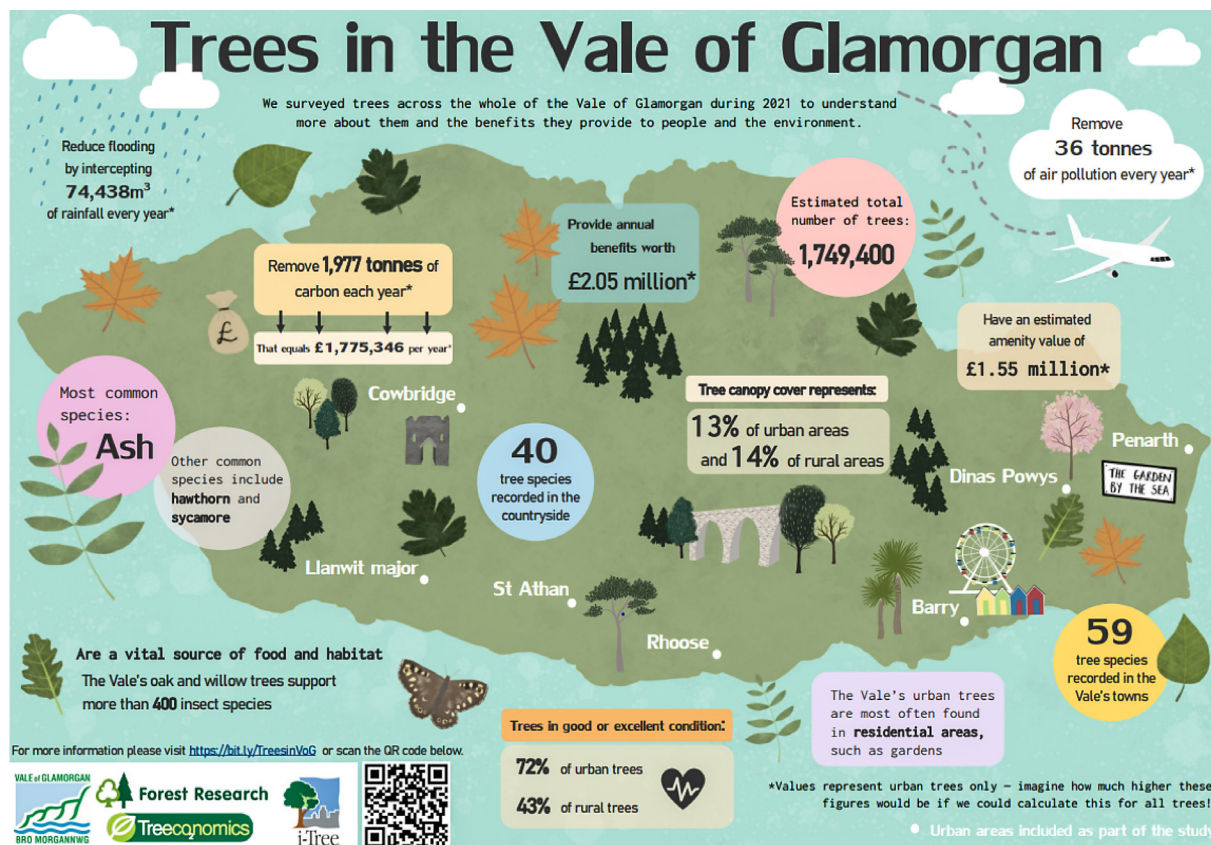
- Social cohesion – from campaigning to save threatened trees, being involved in the active management of urban and rural green spaces and carrying out tree planting
- Local identity where trees form an important part of our immediate landscapes.

Health and Well Being

International studies and research have identified that urban trees provide 'breathing spaces' in cities, decrease respiratory problems by 'capturing' airborne pollutants, provide environments that encourage walking and cycling, reduce traffic speeds and generally help to reduce stress. The Nature Conservancy report 'Funding Trees for Health' demonstrates these benefits.

- Reducing skin cancers by providing shade from harmful ultra-violet radiation.
- Reducing stress and illness by providing psychological refreshment and a sense of wellbeing through softening the built environment, creating character and a sense of place and permanence.
- Releasing scents and aromas that provide a positive emotional response contributing to health and well-being.
- Being outdoors more in the environment thanks to the shade of tree cover.

The Environmental Benefit of Trees within the Vale of Glamorgan



Economic Benefits

Our trees can make the Vale of Glamorgan a more attractive place to live, work and play and thus contribute to inward investment in new and expanding enterprises and more jobs. Good quality landscaping has been found to contribute up to 20% in the value of properties.

- Potential to increase property values.
- Providing a sustainable source of graded timber and mulch.
- Providing a sustainable source of woodchip for biofuel.
- Providing a sustainable source of compost (leaf litter)
- When planted strategically trees can reduce fossil fuel emissions by reducing fuel costs for heating and cooling buildings.
- Reducing flooding severity frequency due to impact on surface water runoff.
- Economic value by decreasing health budget spend.
- Urban amenity trees within the Vale have an approximate value of £1.55m.

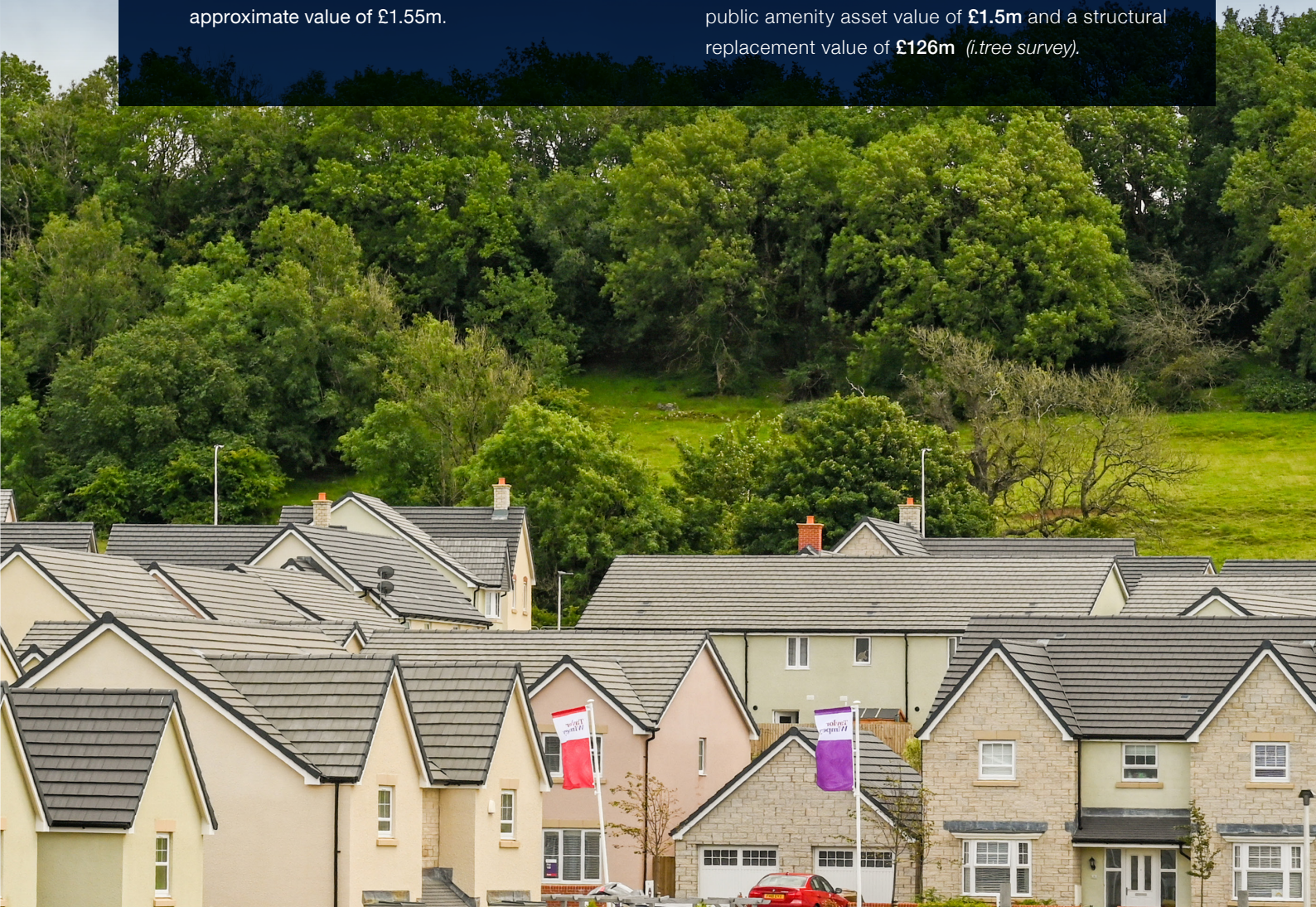
Capital Asset Valuation of Amenity Trees (CAVAT)

CAVAT provides a method for managing trees as public assets rather than liabilities. It is designed to be a strategic tool to aid decision-making about the tree stock as a whole and to be used where the value of a single tree needs to be calculated in monetary terms. The Council uses CAVAT as a method for use in decisions concerning individual trees or groups.

In summary CAVAT delivers:

- A monetary value for amenity trees based on tree size having a trunk formula valuation method adjusted for tree health and function.
- It adjusts valuations for human population density to account for all potential beneficiaries.
- The system using the 'Full Method' can be used to give compensation values for damaged public trees.
- The 'Quick Method' has informed urban forest succession planning and resource allocation.

The Vale of Glamorgan's urban forest has an estimated public amenity asset value of **£1.5m** and a structural replacement value of **£126m** (*.tree survey*).



TREES IN OTHER LOCATIONS

Woodlands

In the Vale of Glamorgan there are approximately 2,231 hectares of broadleaved woodland and 427 hectares of coniferous woodland found throughout the county, canopy cover within urban area is 13% and rural areas 14%. In some areas woodlands occur in urban settings and provide important spaces for people and wildlife. Research undertaken by Plantlife has shown that many of our woodlands are undermanaged or unmanaged leading to a loss of wildlife due to over shading and invasive species such as Rhododendron.

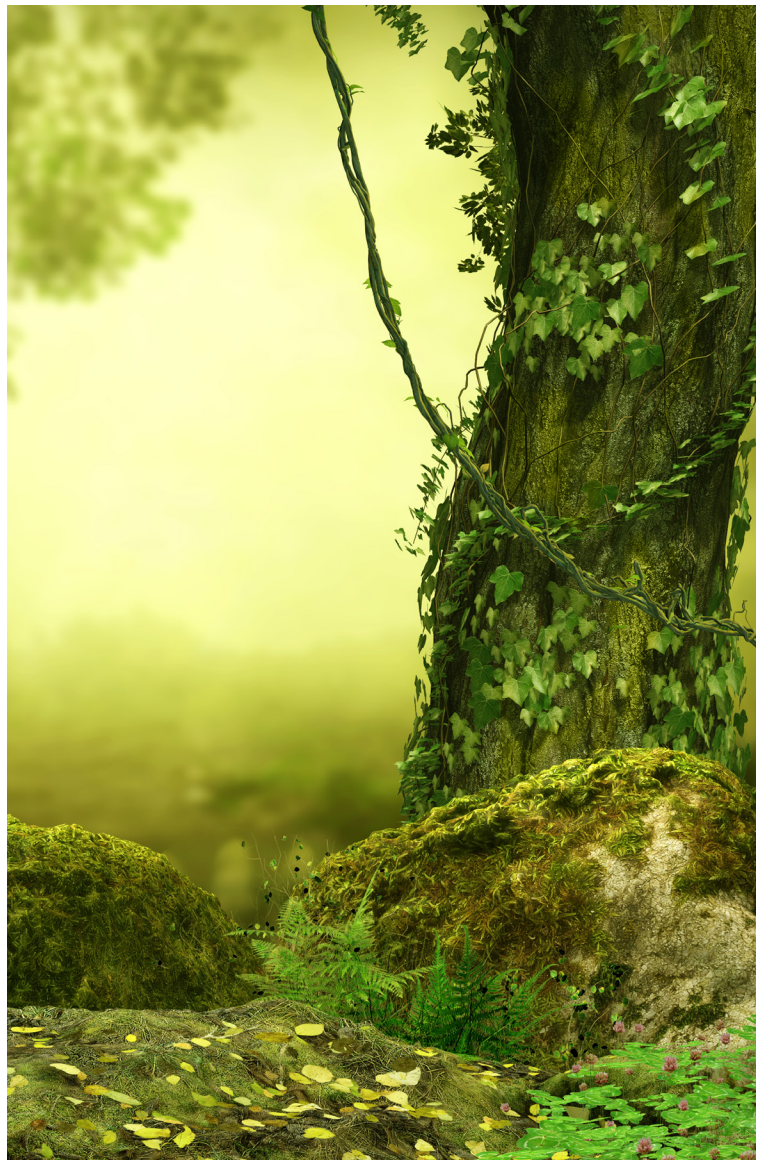
There are important groups and areas of woodland in the Vale some of which are Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserves and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. Such areas include the Barry Woodlands complex, Hensol Wood, Porthkerry Woodlands, Leckwith Woodlands.

Ancient semi-natural woodlands

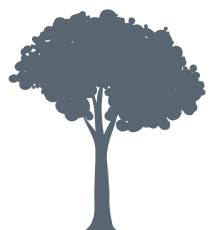
Ancient woods are those which have been continuously wooded since 1600 and are home to more threatened species than any other habitat in the UK. A closely-knit network of plants and animals, some of which are rare and vulnerable, has developed and are dependent on the stable conditions which these ancient woodlands provide. Therefore, if tree species change, they may become threatened and vulnerable to climate change. It is the closest we have to natural woodland in the UK and is an irreplaceable part of our heritage. Many have been left to develop naturally but most have been altered in some way with additional planting.

Mixed woodlands and Conifer plantations

Mixed woodlands include both broadleaved and coniferous trees to varying degrees. It may have been that previous owners have planted specimen trees to add to the interest of a woodland or that conifers were used as a nurse crop for broadleaved trees and never completely removed. Some mixed woodlands will occur on ancient woodland sites and the aim should be to progressively remove the conifers in favour of the broadleaved trees.



“Conifer plantations contain only conifers and often in a monoculture i.e., all the same species. Only three British native trees are coniferous - Scots Pine, Yew and Juniper. So, these plantations are made up of non-native species that are grown for timber or wood pulp. In the Vale there are areas of coniferous woodlands. Like the mixed woodland they are often planted to replace broadleaved trees but have also planted on heathlands and other poor-quality land. The aim should be to return these to their former state wherever possible.”



Veteran trees

Veteran trees are usually in their second or mature stage of life and have exceptional cultural, landscape and nature conservation value. Veteran trees are identified by signs of aging. They may have started hollowing out and have patches of decay, broken branches or flaking bark that provide holes, cavities and crevices in the trunk and large limbs which are especially important for roosting and nesting bats and birds. However, decay and other physical defects can pose a danger to the public and this must be managed as appropriate.

Orchards

There are many orchards in the Vale of Glamorgan with several craft cider and perry makers. More recently there has been increased interest in the development of Community Orchards and the planting of fruit trees in urban and peri-urban areas where people can help themselves. Community orchards have been planted at Porthkerry Country Park, Cosmeston Lakes Country Park, Wenvoe, White Farm, Barry, with other orchards across the Vale.

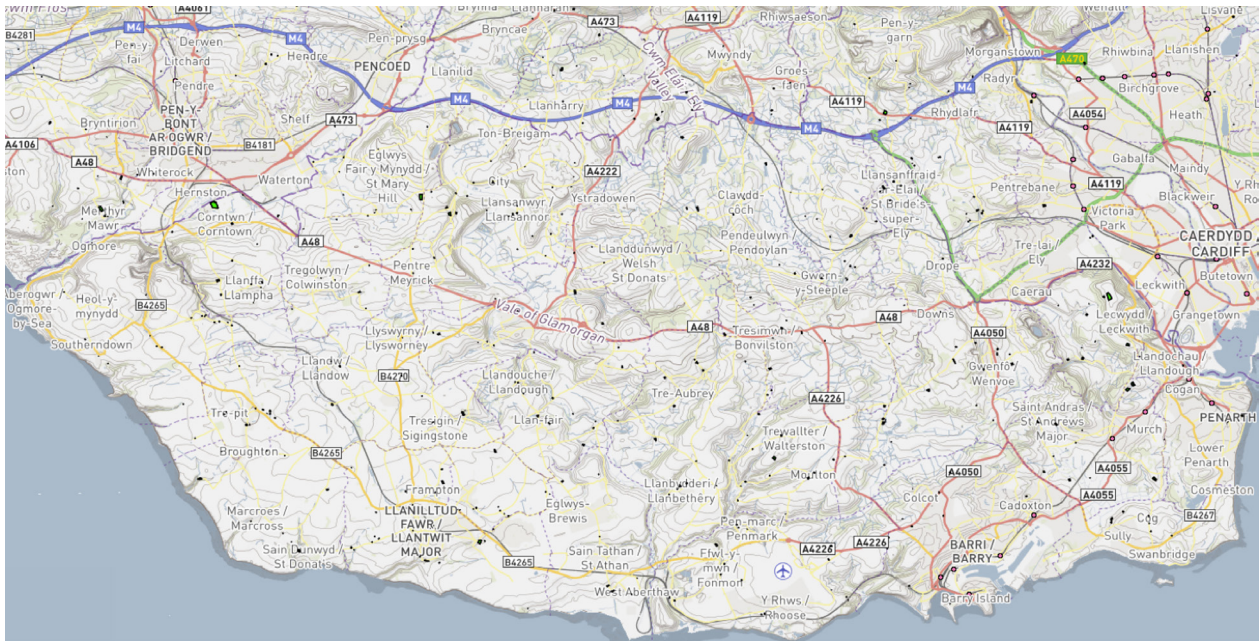


Fig 1- Orchards in the Vale of Glamorgan.

KNOWING WHAT YOU'VE GOT

Understanding our tree population

Before we can consider the future of the Council's tree stock we need to know what we have now and consequently our inventory needs to cover all Council owned land. We also need to be aware of trees, woodlands and orchards elsewhere.

Trees can be considered in terms of individual tree numbers and species. However, to supplement the inventory data an iTree canopy survey has been undertaken to supplement the data in the NRW tree report for urban areas within the Vale. Latest estimated figures indicate that canopy cover in urban areas within the Vale was 13.4% in 2009 and down to 12.3% in 2013.

The recent iTree survey carried out in 2021/2022 has indicated a canopy over 13% in urban areas and 14% canopy cover in rural areas. However, this falls below WG target of 20%.

The iTree study highlights areas of good and poor tree cover and identifies areas for future tree planting allowing assessment of the required level of investment to deliver improvements to the environment and the health of its residents. The Study will provide the Council with information policy makers can use to take full account of trees in future decision making.

Canopy cover targets

The Vale will commit to increasing canopy cover by 5% (7.5%) on the Council owned estate by 2039.

Connectivity will be integral to all future works. The number of new trees that can be planted is governed by several factors including availability of planting land, funding etc.

POLICIES, GUIDELINES & ACTION PLANS

The Strategy aims to ensure responsible proactive management, maintenance and protection of its tree population.

The Council will prioritise the maintenance and protection of existing trees to maximise the benefits of these assets.

By promoting the benefits of trees and their management requirements, the Council will assist the community in active participation projects including the Friends Tree Initiative, a Tree Warden Scheme and tree planting initiatives. Details of such initiatives will be promoted on the Council's website and other media.

It is generally recognised that large trees, particularly in our towns bring considerably more benefits than smaller trees. Finding room for large trees can be a problem in many locations, especially in residential or urban streets. The Right Tree, Right Place approach is intended to allow any trees planted to reach full height and maturity and remove the requirement for regular pruning, which is very resource intensive, as well as to minimise any later nuisance impact.

Additionally, the Council will explore financial options to increase tree planting in urban areas to increase the canopy cover. This will include working with partners who may be able to access additional funding for trees not available directly to the Council.


The Council will implement a system to manage the risk posed by trees. As part of this process the Council already ensures that its trees are inspected on a regular basis and a proactive management regime and reactive maintenance arrangements are in place to deal with residents' concerns. This Strategy will further promote the updating of the Council's systems to ensure they meet the legal requirement placed upon the Council.

As part of these statutory obligations the Council is required to have a proactive programme of inspection. The Council will put in place a plan that ensures each individual tree in the Vale is inspected every three years. Where remediation work has been identified works will be prioritised dependant on the level of risk. Further information is detailed in the **Appendix 2 Tree risk management strategy.**

At present trees that are removed are replaced on a two for one basis, the Council's Parks, Gardens and Country Parks, usually acting as the receptor sites. Where highway trees have been removed, they are normally replaced off the highway estate, however, if resources are available trees will be replaced within street locations where suitable.

This Strategy seeks to identify planting opportunities closer to the highway, wherever possible, particularly in areas where tree cover is low. The Council has a rolling programme of preparing management plans for its parks and other green spaces. Management plans may serve a variety of needs such as maintaining health and safety risk assessments, providing work programmes prioritising resources, seeking funding and applying for and retaining the valued Green Flag accreditation.

A voluntary Friendship Tree scheme has already been established, in some parks, to encourage and enable community involvement in tree and woodland



“ The Council will utilise a tree management and associated GIS database system to manage the tree population by ensuring they are incorporated into a cyclical program to meet statutory obligations, resources, and service demands. ”

management. This Strategy seeks opportunities for expanding this role by exploring the appetite for a Vale wide tree 'friends' scheme. The Strategy also seeks to increase involvement in tree planting programmes across its schools and within local communities.

Like all living organisms, trees are subject to decay at some point in their lifespan. However poor the physical condition of a tree, remedial action is only necessary where there is a clearly quantifiable risk to life or property. This might mean removing part of the tree, the whole tree, or for example, reducing the level of public access in the vicinity.

“ Risk is related to the location of the tree. It reflects the intensity of use of the immediate surroundings of the tree and the proximity of the tree to people, buildings or other structures (*targets*). ”

THE TREE ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

It is the responsibility of the Council to ensure that tree inspection procedures are in place and that they are undertaken only by staff or others who meet the requirements of competence.

The tree assessment programme has four stages;

1. Assessment of risk;
2. Assessment of hazard;
3. Prescription for remedial action and
4. A plan for the recording and re-inspection process.

As part of the Council's statutory obligations, it has a proactive program of tree inspections. The Council will put in place a Plan that ensures each individual tree in the Vale is inspected every three years, where remediation has been identified works will be prioritised dependant on the level of risk.

When prescribing work the Council also recognises that in addition to the risk assessment, there is a need to carry out an ecological assessment to protect bats, birds and other protected species.

It is imperative for safe delivery that competent arboricultural professionals are integral to the Plan and the carrying out

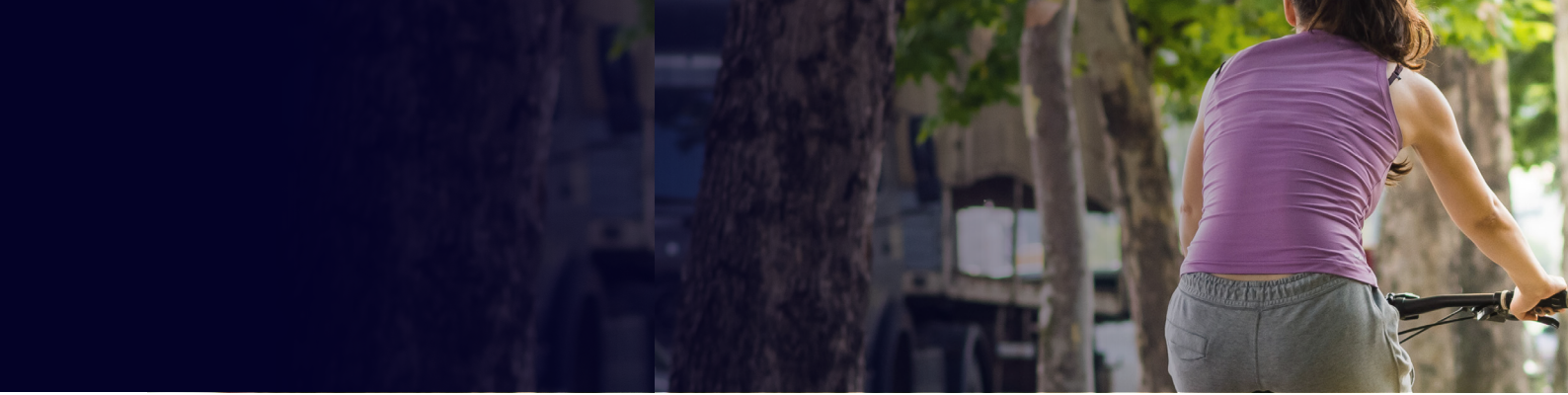
of duties in relation to this. This will ensure accurate, efficient and informed decisions with duty of care being met in all circumstances where possible.

The Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) (*Ellison, 2005*) Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (qtra.co.uk) is accepted within the arboricultural industry as an appropriate risk assessment tool to assist either in reaching decisions regarding the future management of a tree identified to have significant faults, or to identify the appropriate interval between, or intensity of, tree inspection regimes. (Appendix 2)

QTRA is not intended to be predictive but instead estimates the probability of the risk of harm the public, property or vehicles (over a period of one year). This is estimated in terms of the likelihood of the event that a tree or tree part fails and that this event coincides with the occupation of the "target" zone (the area likely to be impacted were a tree to fail), by a pedestrian, vehicle or property.

The Council has invested financially in developing the necessary skills of staff to undertake QTRA surveys and this will be rolled out to key staff within all departments, to ensure a generic approach to tree assessment across the Council.





Highway Trees

The Council, is responsible for maintaining its local highway network in a condition that is safe for users. In addition to this safety duty, the Council is required to comply with all necessary ecological and environmental legislation in managing and enhancing the street tree population within the urban environment.

Trees bring with them both benefits and liabilities that can, on occasions, lead to conflict. Many of the liabilities and their associated costs are estimated by highway and tree managers, who deal with customer concerns, whilst the benefits can sometimes be seen as difficult to quantify. Trees growing in pavements, or hard surfaces, grow in relatively harsh conditions and their roots can result in deformations of the surface.

A Natural Resources Wales study found that the Vale has lost 471 street trees during 2006 to 2013. *Town Tree Cover in the Vale of Glamorgan* (naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

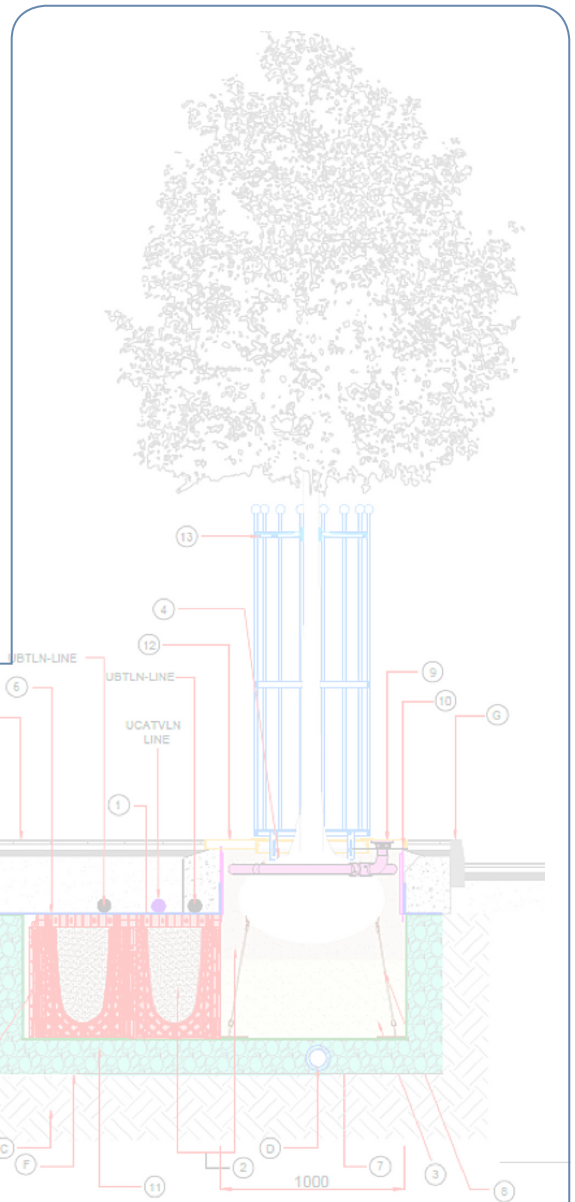
For examples of typical detail requirements for a tree set in a Highway footpath see: "Trees in Hard Landscapes, a Guide for Delivery" <https://www.tdag.org.uk/trees-in-hard-landscapes.html>

Volume

- 30m³ for individually planted large-medium trees.
- 20m³ per large-medium tree when planted as a group of two or more with shared RASV.
- 10m³ for individually planted small trees of approximately 6m height and 3m diameter branch spread after 25 years.
- 5m³ per small tree when planted as a group of two or more with shared RASV.

PACKAGE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING GREENBLUE URBAN PRODUCTS PER TREE

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Rootspace @ 600mm depth (1 units deep) C/W twin walled geonet & open reinforcing mesh - GBURS61A | 8. Arborguy anchorplate strapped anchor system - SASAP06A |
| 2. Rootsoil 20 topsoil for use within top 600mm of soil profile - rootsoil 20 | 9. Rootrain urban irrigation system - RRURB1A |
| 3. Rootsoil sub soil for use within soil profiles 600mm or deeper - rootsoilsuba | 10. Reroot 600 root barrier 600mm deep with root deflecting ribs. Use RERJTA reroot jointing tape for any overlaps - RER600A |
| 4. Rootstart professional Mycorrhiza Fungi allow 200g per tree - RSPMF 2.5LA | 11. 10-20mm Clean angular drainage aggregate - GBUDRSA |
| 5. Rootrain arborvent cast aluminium trafficable aeration inlet with 150mm square top and manifold - RRARBV150B | 12. Adur design cast ductile tree grille 1200mm square with 600mm central aperture with galvanised support frame, including rootrain hydrogrille irrigation system - ADUR12A |
| 6. Twin walled structural geonet (included in item (1.)) see note (A.) - GLTWGNA | 13. Ullswater vertical steel tree guard 1800mm high X 600mm Ø including tree guard tie - ULLSSP6A |
| 7. 20mm open reinforcing mesh (included in item (1.)) see note (A.) - GRN20A | |



NOTES:

- A. Allow 20% additional for geotextile and reinforced geogrid for overlap and cutting requirements
- B. Install rootspace side panels to installation as directed by engineer
- C. Existing ground
- D. Positive drainage pipe (110mm perforated pipe)
- E. Build-up to suit engineer designs and requirements
- F. Soft landscape area
- G. Kerb (as per standard)

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER'S NOTE:

- H. Additional twinwall geonet (GLTWGNA) to be installed where sub-base is installed below 3% CBR - minimum 2% CBR of formation level to be assessed by engineer



In order to redress this balance and recognising that street trees offer benefits opportunities to plant trees will be pursued in street locations, particularly in areas where trees have been removed, subject to available resources.

When planning any future planting on the highway, careful consideration will be given to the species, available space, location and constraints of a particular site. Planting will prioritise larger growing shade providing trees, scaling down to smaller ornamental trees where larger trees are not suitable. The Council will also look to establish a diversity of tree species to mitigate against pests and disease that can threaten entire species.

Housing (Communal Land) Trees

Vale Homes provide services to over 4000 council tenants, making the Council, the largest landlord in the Vale. Individual tenants are responsible for trees in their gardens. Trees on communal housing land, are the responsibility of the Council.

Future planting in communal housing land will reflect the need for a variety of species and the need to provide an attractive environment. Future tree planting, in these areas, will involve discussions with neighbourhood housing officers to ensure the local community are consulted, aware and supportive.

Parks and Gardens

There are many parks and gardens throughout the Vale of Glamorgan. From urban parks in Barry and Penarth to rural parks across the Vale as well as playing fields to local nature reserves and country parks. Parks contain a high proportion of large, mature, high asset value trees and provide habitats that increase biodiversity levels in the area as a whole. The Council is committed to the quality management and enhancement of these important assets.

Careful consideration will be given to future tree planting at these sites to ensure a mix of species and ages of trees.

Leckwith Woods and the two Country Parks, Porthkerry and Cosmeston Lakes contain high proportions of large, mature, high asset value trees and provide habitats that increase biodiversity levels in the area as a whole. In light of this and the numerous other benefits trees provide the Council is committed to the high-quality management of this important asset and understands proactive management can provide all levels and ages for our residents and visitors.



“ Parks and Country Parks will also continue to offer a memorial and sponsored tree service, where the purchaser can choose and purchase a tree from an approved list of trees. ”





Education

Trees on education sites have historically been dealt with by each individual school. Discussions will be held with schools with the aim of incorporating education sites into the Council's inspection program to ensure statutory obligations in regarding to trees are met. However, it is acknowledged that the final decision regarding this will, remain with the schools governing body.

The 21st Century Schools Officer will liaise with Planning department and Ecologists with regards to future schemes, this will ensure that the right tree is planted in the right place, this will ensure that the project will be of maximum educational value.



Cemeteries

Cemeteries come under the control of the individual churches/chapels, the Church in Wales, Community Councils and the Council. Cemeteries can contribute enormously to biodiversity as the long running 'Caring for Gods Acre' charity has proved plus they often contain interesting and ancient trees.

Working in Partnership

To achieve the ambitious Vision set within this Strategy, the Council will work with communities, landowners, private sector, and other partnership organisations, to help ensure future success.

The Council is committed to building on and developing communication with all interested bodies, building on existing community support and volunteer engagement that currently exists.

We will work with all interested groups and partner organisations to develop community involvement in tree planting schemes, whether it is on Council estate, private land or within the private sector. This will help create a sense of ownership for newly planted trees, developing a sense of pride.



“ We will work with all interested groups and partner organisations to develop community involvement in tree planting schemes, whether it is on Council estate, private land or within the private sector. This will help create a sense of ownership for newly planted trees, developing a sense of pride. ”

Council owned Commercial sites

The Council owns and operates commercial sites which will be reviewed on an annual basis to ascertain opportunities to increase canopy cover. Any new commercial development will incorporate new plantings, such as the transport hub at the Docks office, Barry.



ACTION PLAN

How we will increase our canopy cover

The iTree Eco-survey has identified sites where new tree planting is both possible and most beneficial to improve canopy cover, air quality, flood prevention and habitat quality. It will not be possible to deliver target canopy cover on just Council owned land alone so other ways could be investigated.

These include:

- Use of planning conditions and obligations in Development Management
- Working with community partners on funding bids through mechanisms such as LNP
- Working with other bodies / individuals such as the Woodland Trust, NRW, landowners / farmers and organisations such as Penarth Civic Society, voluntary organisations and third sector.
- Working with private businesses, Community Councils, Public Health Board and Housing Associations.
- Giving advice, encouragement and raising awareness.

Tree planting - what we will do

There are many factors which need to be considered when planting urban trees involving both species selection and the actual growing and living conditions for the trees in the future. If trees merely survive, rather than thrive, then they will not provide the many benefits we plant them for such as their ecosystem benefits and aesthetic qualities.

A detailed action plan is attached at Appendix 3 that details the Councils approach to implementing the Tree Strategy.

Replacement planting

Replacement planting, particularly in urban areas is essential to ensure continuity of our tree stock and canopy cover, the Council recognises the fact that a single young tree takes many years to achieve the size and scale of a large mature tree and that one replacement does not give the same benefit, nor does it have an immediate effect on the canopy cover.



If there is a need to remove trees the Council will ensure that an appropriate replacement take place in line with the table below, this will help us achieve our tree canopy cover target by 2039.

We will generally replace trees in the same location, but in some circumstances a nearby location may be more practical and appropriate i.e. right tree, right place. However, if trees are removed within woodlands we will allow natural regeneration to take place.

"We will commit to a rolling programme of street tree replacement for age diversity. Redevelop existing tree pits where feasible to restore avenue planting subject to available funding and the specific case".

Amd. No.8

Trunk Diameter of existing tree (cm)	Number of replacement trees
Up to 39.9	2
40 to 49.9	3
50 to 59.9	4
60 to 69.9	5
70 to 79.9	6
80 plus	7

Local Provenance tree stock

The importation of tree diseases on stock meant for planting within the UK plus the acknowledgement of the importance of conserving local genetic distinctiveness in native species has meant that there is now an increasing and largely unmet demand for what is known as local provenance tree and shrub stock.

These are plants which have been grown from seeds, berries, nuts, fruit and occasionally grafts or layers of local trees and shrubs and then grown on locally. They are ideally suited to local conditions. The Woodland Trust and Llais y Goedwig are working to establish community tree nurseries and some other charities and private companies are now also starting to supply local provenance material.

Future tree planting

Climate change means that the range and distribution of trees, tree pests and diseases will change over time. Increasing temperatures may allow more non-native trees to survive over a wider area, but reduce the suitability of some native tree species, especially in urban areas across the Vale. This presents challenges for how we manage our existing tree stock and our future planting programmes:

- Consideration of the future climatic suitability of new trees as the climate in Wales, especially given the long- life span of many trees
- Consideration of how our existing tree stocks may be affected by changing climatic conditions and potentially greater frequency of extreme weather events.
- Impact of pests and diseases – how to build resilience in our existing tree stock and reduce the risks to new planting.

Whilst trees will be affected by climate change, they are part of the solution to how we mitigate and adapt to the challenges that climate change presents. There are many factors which we need to consider when planting urban trees, woodland trees and hedgerows, involving both species selection and the actual growing and living conditions for the trees in the future.

Natural Regeneration

Natural regeneration is where nature is left to its own devices. The removal or reduction of grazing pressure on grasslands will result in the development of taller vegetation. Depending on the availability of nearby seed sources, scrub will soon develop followed by young trees that then result in new

woodland. Natural regeneration works best near or next to existing woodland where species can spread through natural methods in the natural regeneration area.



OTHER TREE ISSUES

Tree Preservation Orders

Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) can be placed on single trees, groups of trees and even whole woodlands. If a TPO is in force Council approval must be sought before carrying out any work to the trees covered. Unauthorised work to a tree (either protected by a TPO or a tree within a conservation area) is a criminal offence **Trees and Hedges** (valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

Conservation Areas

All trees with a stem diameter of 75mm or more (measured at 1.5 metres above natural ground level) are protected in a Conservation Area. Anyone intending to carry out any work to a tree in a Conservation Area has a requirement to notify the Council. If there are concerns that the work may be damaging to the amenity of the area, consideration will be given to issuing a Tree Preservation Order.

What type of trees can be covered by a TPO?

Any tree may be covered by a TPO as there is no minimum size, but bushes or shrubs of any size cannot be protected. TPO's protect trees that make their local surroundings more attractive. Protected trees should normally be visible from a public place, but in some cases other trees may be protected.

Applying for work to a protected tree

If you wish to undertake work to a tree within a Conservation Area or a tree covered by a TPO, you should complete the application form for tree works. The form and guidance can be assessed from the planning section of the Vale of Glamorgan website **Planning and Building Control** (valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

How do I find out if a tree has a TPO or is in a Conservation Area?

The Council's website contains an interactive map. Locate the site you are interested in and then select the Environment and Planning category on the map. You can then select 'conservation area' or 'tree preservation order' to see if the site contains protected trees. See link - **Trees and Hedges** (valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

Felling Licences

Under the Forestry Act 1967 (as amended) the volume of growing timber which can be felled in each calendar quarter without a Felling Licence is restricted. The controls are administered by Natural Resources Wales and subject to certain exemptions, prevent the felling of trees not covered by a TPO, within a Conservation Area or other restrictions.



Occasionally the Felling Licence controls overlap with the TPO and Conservation Area legislation and it is necessary for officers from each organisation to liaise with each other. When carrying out work to trees on its own land the council must have regard to the Felling Licence controls and seek consent from CNC/NRW.

See [link - Natural Resources Wales / Apply for a felling licence](#)

Biosecurity

The increase in the number of pests and diseases affecting trees and woodlands makes biosecurity very important. Human activity is the key factor in the spread of tree pests and diseases present in the soil (i.e. mud) or on plant material.

See [link - Information Portal » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

Arboriculture Officers, Parks and Open Spaces operatives and Countryside Rangers follow Forestry Commission guidance on biosecurity to reduce the risk of spread. This guidance recommends ensuring clothing and equipment is cleaned regularly to avoid spreading material from site to site, sourcing trees from trustworthy nurseries that supply UK grown healthy stock and ensuring vehicles are kept free of mud and debris. Members of the public visiting woodland will be encouraged to follow biosecurity measures that are relevant to the risk and in accordance with best practice advice.

As well as being irresponsible and illegal, the tipping of garden waste in the countryside increases the risk of tree pests and diseases. There is also a risk of spreading invasive plants.

Trees in an urban environment

Residents often live in close proximity to trees, particularly in urban areas. These trees are either their own, their neighbours or quite commonly belong to the Council. Inconvenience to residents can be caused by trees when they grow near dwellings. A dilemma often occurs when the tree makes an important contribution to the local environment but also cause inconvenience or creates safety issues to those living nearby.

With any population of trees there are several common sources of complaints including overhanging branches, shade, leaf/fruit fall, obstruction and physical damage, etc. Some of these problems can be dealt with by regular management by the appropriate landowner. (See Appendix 4 for FAQ's).

Damage and vandalism

Damage to trees, both deliberate and through ignorance, is common. Criminal damage includes cutting down or lopping or topping, snapping saplings, setting fires beneath trees and various other attempts to kill Council trees. Some damage to trees is through ignorance for example by failing to maintain trees or leaving on stakes, ties metal grilles etc. or through the fixing of decorative lights which are not loosened on a regular basis.

Damage related to highway use and maintenance, causes compaction of rooting areas, branches can be torn branches by high vehicles, the installation of driveways cutting across verges or through contamination from salt in grit or hydrocarbons. Enforcement action will be taken against anyone who damages Council trees.

"The council will seek compensation from any external organisation responsible for significant damage to or removal of any council owned tree(s) to the value as calculated by CAVAT."

Amd.
No.9

Pests and diseases

Climate change is changing and extending the range of pests and diseases and this will affect the UK as new pests and diseases become more common in this country. In the 1970's Dutch Elm disease was introduced into the UK and is one of the most well-known examples of a 'new' pathogen dramatically

changing the look and makeup of our urban forest.

The following are some of those currently present

“ The importation of trees, along with their associated soil and packaging materials, from across Europe and elsewhere continues to bring threats and these imported pests and diseases are already having an effect on the tree population of the Vale. ”



in the Vale or which could pose a threat in the future: Ash dieback, Dutch elm disease, horse chestnut leaf miner. With other diseases spreading in to parts of the UK such as acute oak decline (in the Midlands), sweet chestnut blight (most in southern England but outbreaks elsewhere), Asian longhorn beetle (southern England), Gypsy moth (southern England).

The Council will only purchase new trees for planting from nurseries which work in accordance with strict bio-security polices and will use, wherever possible trees raised entirely in the UK.

“ Horse Chestnut is affected by Bleeding Canker (caused by *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi*) and Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner, both of which have been highly significant in the Vale, as well as much of the UK. ”



Currently the main threat to our native oaks in the UK is from Acute Oak decline.

Ash dieback is also a significant issue which is a threat throughout the Vale of Glamorgan. Ash is the predominant tree species within the Vale and it is expected that there will be up to an 80% loss of the species.

See link - [Notifiable pests - UK Plant Health Information Portal \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://www.defra.gov.uk/pests-notifiable)

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (Trees)

Part of this Strategy is to recognise the importance of trees as a material consideration in planning decisions. Awareness will continue to be raised with private owners, managers and developers of the importance of their trees and woods and the many benefits they provide our communities. Having a suitably qualified tree officer within the planning department to assess applications will help address the risk posed to trees through development.

Loss or damage through development

Demolition and construction can damage trees in a variety of ways. This may be through direct loss to make way for the development, a reduction in space for retained trees' future growth and spread, direct damage due to compaction of soil, severing roots or branches or from spill of chemicals or the use of fire. Infrastructure and service installation can also be damaging due to open trenching. For new trees, the presence of pre-existing or new utility provision must be carefully considered if future conflict is to be avoided.

The Councils tree stock and canopy cover will be increased by 5% (7.5%) by 2039 to give greater species and age diversity to ensure a healthy, balanced, tree population.

The Council will use its powers to prevent unnecessary damage to trees within all construction/development and pursue enforcement action where appropriate if trees are damaged or destroyed.

“The council will seek compensation from any external organisation responsible for significant damage to or removal of any council owned tree(s) to the value as calculated by CAVAT.”

Amd. No.9

Works in the vicinity of trees

The Council's specialist tree lead will be advised when works are to be carried out in the vicinity of retained council owned trees on development sites and as part of general works of highway, including by statutory undertakers, to enable the trees to be evaluated both before and after works. Any unacceptable damage caused to trees will be pursued.

“The council will seek compensation from any external organisation responsible for significant damage to or removal of any council owned tree(s) to the value as calculated by CAVAT.”

Amd. No.9

Permitted Development Rights

Where a planning application is needed, there is the opportunity for trees and hedges to be considered and protection sought if needed. If development is 'permitted' this means that no planning application is needed and there is no third party to assess removal or the potential damage to trees.

Probably of most relevance to our urban trees is maintenance and improvement of the highway





by Highways department, repairs to services by utility companies and small extensions or alteration to dwellings or commercial buildings.

Work associated with installation and repair of utility services

Street trees are very vulnerable to damage which can cause at best, loss in vigour and at worst, death, both of which may take several years to become evident. It also poses a health and safety risk if trees are made unstable (severing of major roots) and work just covered over. Such works undertaken in the vicinity of trees will follow National guidance document written by the National Joint Utilities Group.

See link - <http://streetworks.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/V4-Trees-Issue-2-16-11-2007.pdf>

Highway Improvements

Raising the awareness of the impact of improvements on the existing tree stock encouraging suitable tree surveys to be undertaken and appropriate arboricultural advice to be obtained prior to developing and finalising proposals to minimise impact and protect trees where possible.

Specification, planting & maintenance

Unless a tree reaches maturity and is healthy, it cannot deliver its full benefits. Many of the trees in urban areas across the Vale are merely 'surviving, not thriving' wasting the time and finance invested in their purchase and planting.

To ensure that the trees we plant reach their potential they need to be correctly sourced, planted, established and then

maintained. Poor planting with trees planted too deep, in tree pits with inappropriate surfacing or small soil volumes either kills or stunts the trees.

Poor establishment maintenance (particularly insufficient watering), tree guards, stakes and grilles left in place so damaging to bark and stems and a lack of thinning of plantations also reduces the value our tree stock.

As mentioned above a limited palette of trees species reduces species diversity and also the landscape value. Correct species choice for the final setting of the mature tree is essential at the initial design stage.

For all planting and maintenance works we will be guided by:

BS 3998:2010 Tree work: Recommendations

BS 8545:2014 Trees: From nursery to independence in the landscape. Recommendations

BS 3936-1:1992 Nursery stock: Specification for trees and shrubs

Amd.
No.10



TREE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Trees in Council ownership will be inspected for safety, on a cycle between one and three years according to size, targets, condition and survey recommendation for each tree. This information will be recorded on the Council's data base.
2. Tree inspections will only be undertaken by people who are qualified, experienced and competent to undertake the Quantified Tree Assessment (QTRA) survey method.
3. The Council will prioritise tree work according to the individual tree's health & safety risk, taking into account current available resources. Tree works will normally be completed in safety priority order.
4. The Council will not carry out works to trees, or fell them, unless it is necessary to do so. When works are carried out, the reasons for the work will be documented and recorded.
5. The Council accepts the right of householders to remove overhanging branches, (subject to compliance with Tree Preservation Orders and/or Conservation Area status) and where required will assist householders to identify a suitable arboriculture contractor who can carry out works to the appropriate standard.
6. For non-emergency tree-related safety issues the Council will aim to carry out a tree inspection within 20 working days of receipt of the enquiry and the customer notified thereafter within 10 working days of what action the Council intends to take.
7. The Council will make safe any unacceptable carriageway obstruction due to street trees owned by the council affecting the safe passage of highway users.
8. The Council will undertake work to a tree in Council ownership to maintain (where reasonably feasible) a minimum 5.05m height clearance over the carriageway.
9. The Council will undertake work to a Council owned tree to maintain a minimum (where reasonably feasible) 2.4m height clearance over a footway.
10. The Council will undertake work to a tree in its ownership to ensure that it does not unduly obstruct the streetlight zone of illumination.
11. The Council will undertake work to a tree in its ownership to ensure that it does not unduly obstruct traffic signals or street signs.
12. Where trees are potentially impacted by vehicle crossover applications, the Council's Tree Manager will be consulted by the highway department. A site visit may be necessary to make a decision on whether the tree has amenity value and should remain, or whether removal and replacement would be the best and most sustainable solution. Any costs associated with tree removal and replacement of a tree is to be borne by the applicant.
with these costs being calculated by using the CAVAT value of the individual tree."
13. The Council will not prune or fell a Council owned tree simply because it is considered to be 'too big' or 'too tall'.
14. The Council will not prune or fell a Council owned tree to remove or reduce leaf fall or remove fallen leaves from private property.

15. The Council will not prune or remove trees in cases where they cause a reduced amount of light to fall on a property.

16. The Council will not prune or fell a Council tree to remove or reduce bird droppings from trees or remove bird droppings from private land.

17. The Council will not prune or fell a Council owned tree to remove or reduce the nuisance of fruit/berries or nuts or remove such fallen fruit from private land.

18. The Council will not prune or fell a Council owned tree to remove or reduce honeydew or other sticky residue from trees.

19. The Council will not prune or fell a Council owned tree to remove or reduce the release of pollen.

20. The Council will not prune or fell a Council owned tree to prevent perceived interference with TV / satellite installation / reception.

21. The Council will not prune, fell or cut the roots of a Council owned tree to prevent roots entering a drain that is already broken or damaged.

Tree roots will not normally penetrate an unbroken drain. If a drain is already broken, tree roots may penetrate it. The simple remedy is to repair the drain”.

Amd.
No.12

22. In the event that a Council tree is causing damage to property, the Council will aim to respond within 10 working days and, if appropriate, remedial works will be undertaken. For emergency tree incidents, it will aim to attend within 2 hours of its report to assess the situation and start the process of making the site safe.

23. The Council will not prune or fell a Council owned tree to improve the view from a private property.

24. The Council will endeavour to maintain its tree stock and increase current tree numbers by planting. The Council will look to increase and improve its tree cover within available resources as part of an annual tree planting programme, paying particular attention to those with the least canopy cover. With the target of increasing the canopy cover by 5% **7.5%** by 2039.

25. The Council will endeavour to maintain newly planted trees appropriately to ensure they have the best chance of establishing. (Right Tree Right Place) *see link - 7111_fc_urban_tree_manual_v15.pdf (forestresearch.gov.uk)*

26. The Council will manage veteran and ancient trees sympathetically according to good arboriculture practice, striking a balance between public safety and biodiversity.

“The Council will manage its tree stock sympathetically according to good arboriculture practice, striking a balance between public safety and biodiversity, following guidance (BS 3998)”.

Amd.
No.13

27. Where practicable, all arisings (logs, branches etc.) from tree works in high amenity areas will be removed and used in an environmentally sustainable manner. In woodland situations however standing dead wood, logs and chippings may often be left on site, where this can be done safely, to enhance biodiversity and increase wildlife habitats.

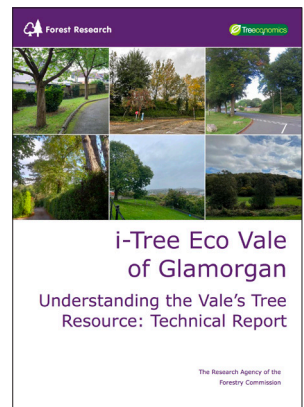
28. Where a Council owned tree or woodland is associated with criminal activity and/or anti -social behaviour, measures to alleviate the problem will be implemented on a site-by-site basis in consultation with the Police, Communities and citizens.

29. The Council will ensure that all demolition, construction and development, near to trees complies with BS:5837 (2012) “Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations” and that the most recent National Joint Utilities Group “Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility apparatus in proximity to trees” are followed where carrying out works in root protection areas cannot be avoided.

APPENDIX 1

LINKS TO DOCUMENTS
INFLUENCING THIS STRATEGY

- **Blue Green Urban - Resource Centre - Download Literature - GreenBlue Urban**
- **Blue Green Urban - Street tree cost benefit analysis 2018** - <https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=e3b2f81b62d80129JmItdHM9MTY4ODY4ODAwMCZpZ3VpZD0zYjk1M2RkMi1mMzQ3LTZjMDYtMDEwNS0yZWQyZjlyYzZkZDMmaW5zaWQ9NTE4OA&pntn=3&hsh=3&fclid=3b953dd2-f347-6c06-0105-2ed2f22c6dd3&psq=gbu+street+tree+cost+benefit-analysis+2018&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9ncmVlbnJsdWUuY29tL2diL3Jlc291cmNILWNlbmRyZS9zdHJlZjZlZjZS1jb3N0LWJlbnVmaXQtYW5hbHlzaXMv&ntb=1>
- **The Environment (Wales) Act 2016.**
See link - Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (legislation.gov.uk)
- **National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) - National standards for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) | GOV.WALES**
- **NJUG Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility apparatus in proximity to trees - National Joint Utilities Group (streetworks.org.uk)**
- **NNSS-GB non-native species secretariat - Information Portal » NNSS (nonnativespecies.org)**
- **NRW South Central Wales Area Statement**
<https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/area-statements/south-central-wales-area-statement/?lang=en>
- **Natural Resources Wales.**
See link - Natural Resources Wales
- **NRW – Town and tree cover in the Vale of Glamorgan - Town Tree Cover in the Vale of Glamorgan (naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)**
- **Suds legislation Wales.**
See link - National standards for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) | GOV.WALES
- **The SuDS Manual (C753F) - Item Detail (ciria.org)**
- **TDAG – Trees and Design Action Group.**
<https://www.tdag.org.uk/our-guides.html>
- **The Planning (Wales) Act 2015.**
See link - Planning (Wales) Act 2015 (legislation.gov.uk)
- **The Right Tree in the Right Place for a Resilient Future (Forest Research)**
[7111_fc_urban_tree_manual_v15.pdf \(forestryresearch.gov.uk\)](https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/7111_fc_urban_tree_manual_v15.pdf)
- **Vale of Glamorgan Biodiversity Action Plan.**
See link - Biodiversity Action Plan (valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)
- **Vale of Glamorgan Biodiversity SPG Biodiversity-Development_SPG (valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)**
- **Vale of Glamorgan Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2025 'Working together for a brighter future'**
See link - Corporate Plan 2020-2025 (valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)
- **Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-2026 Planning Obligations SPG - Adopted July 2017 (valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)**
- **Vale of Glamorgan Council – Supplementary Planning Guidance, Trees, Woodlands, Hedgerows & Development.**
See link - Final Trees, Woodlands, Hedgerows and Development SPG 2018_Compressed (valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)
- **The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.**
See link - 150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf (futuregenerations.wales)
- **Woodlands For Wales - Strategy Welsh Government.**
See link - Woodlands for Wales: strategy | GOV.WALES
- **Vale of Glamorgan I.Tree survey**
- **Vale of Glamorgan I.Tree Summary report**

Amd.
No.14

APPENDIX 2 Tree Risk Management

THE QUANTIFIED TREE RISK ASSESSMENT (QTRA) METHODOLOGY

The Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) (Ellison, 2005) is generally accepted within the arboricultural industry as an appropriate risk assessment tool to assist either in reaching decisions regarding the future management of a tree identified to have significant faults, or to identify the appropriate interval between, or intensity of, tree inspection regimes.

QTRA

Is not intended to be predictive but instead estimates the probability of the risk of harm to members of the public, property or vehicles (over the period of one year). This is estimated in terms of the likelihood of the event that a tree or tree part fails and that this event coincides with the occupation of the “target” zone (the area likely to be impacted were a tree to fail), by a pedestrian, vehicle or property.

Risk of harm within the methodology is estimated as the product of the likelihood that the target area is occupied, the size of the part most likely to fail (expressed as a fraction of the maximum size of part) and the likelihood that the tree or tree part will fail. Within the methodology these factors are referred to as the Target Value, the Impact Potential (Size of Part) and the Probability of Failure. The resultant value for risk of harm is called the Risk Index.

Pedestrian usage within the system is calculated in terms of the number of seconds the area beneath a tree is occupied as a fraction of the total number of seconds available. QTRA assumes a typical pedestrian would take 5 seconds to pass beneath a tree.

An assessment of the stem and crown structure of each tree is undertaken to identify the size of the part within each tree considered as posing the highest risk of failure.

An estimate of the likelihood of failure of the part most likely to fail is then made. In the case of the three trees subject of this report, the most significant risk being assessed is whole tree failure onto neighbouring private, third part property (fences, parked cars and gardens).

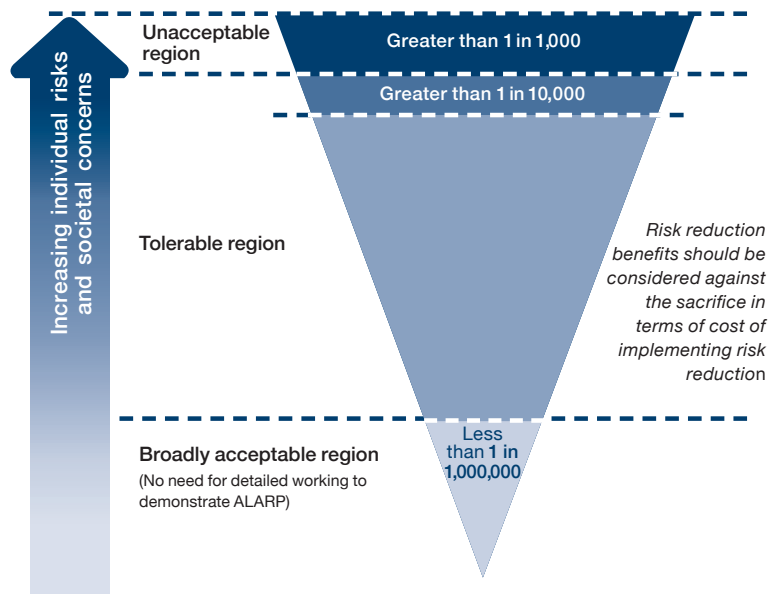
The risk of harm estimated using QTRA is the key system output and should be interpreted with reference to the Tolerability of Risk framework

(HSE, 2001). Briefly, this recommends that risks identified as higher than 1/10,000 should be considered as unacceptable, with appropriate management introduced to reduce risks to within a region that can be considered to be tolerable (between 1/10,000 and 1/1,000,000). Risks lower than 1/1,000,000 should be considered to be broadly acceptable and resources should not be allocated to reduce these further. Based on this framework, the Risk Index values should be read as follows:

1/1 – 1/10,000 – Manage immediately

1/10,000 – 1/1,000,000 – Apply scheduled management (may include regular re-inspection).

1/1,000,000 – Does not currently require risk management.



Source: The Tolerability of Risk Framework from QTRA Practice Note (adapted from HSE Framework for Tolerability of Risk (TOR))

APPENDIX 3 Action Plan

5 YEAR ACTION PLAN *(to be reviewed)*

	Action	Corporate Plan Objective	Well Being Objective	Time	Lead Dept	Other Partners	Funding
1)	Ensure that all sections of the Council are aware of legal obligations with regards to trees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write to all sections of the Council with regard to trees on their sites • Offer an internal service of inspection. Costs based upon size of the site and number of trees 	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	December 2024	Neighbourhood Services & Transport	Education, Social Services, Housing, Estates, Countryside, Highways	Recharge for work undertaken for other departments
2)	Set up a dedicated electronic system to record findings and plot Council owned trees	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	Completed by end 2024	Neighbourhood Services & Transport		Existing resources
3)	Produce a schedule for tree inspections based upon size, age and position of tree	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	April 2026	Neighbourhood Services & Transport	Education, Social Services, Housing, Estates, Countryside, Highways	Additional Resources required.
4)	Highway & Park trees plotted and recorded on new electronic system and inspected	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	Completed by 2027	Neighbourhood Services & Transport	Education, Social Services, Housing, Estates, Countryside, Highways	Additional resources
5)	All remaining Council estate trees plotted and recorded on new electronic system and inspected.	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	Completed by 2028	Neighbourhood Services & Transport	Education, Social Services, Housing, Estates, Countryside, Highways	Additional resources
6)	Progress 3 yearly tree inspection programme, on all trees.	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	2024, completed by 2027	Neighbourhood Services & Transport	Education, Social Services, Housing, Estates, Countryside, Highways	Existing resources
7)	Enable all relevant inspecting officers to assist in the inspection of the Council's tree stock and aid in the identification of tree issues as part of their inspections.	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	2024	Neighbourhood Services & Transport		Existing resources and addition funding for staff training
8)	Adopt C.A.V.A.T as a tree evaluation model to be applied as policy to aid decision-making around potential tree removals	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	April 2024	Neighbourhood Services & Transport		Existing resources
9)	Identify locations for tree planting / natural regeneration across the VOG working with other departments.	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	2025	Place, Neighbourhood Services & Transport All departments	Various partners Private sector organisations (notably developers), land owners.	Existing Resources

	Action	Corporate Plan Objective	Well Being Objective	Time	Lead Dept	Other Partners	Funding
	10) Plant a minimum of 1500 trees, which will include a minimum of 500 standards, in predetermined targeted areas (right tree, right place), across the Council estate, annually.	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	Annually	All departments		Additional resources required, through internal and external sources
	11) Look at potential Council land to develop a community tree nursery of approximately 2Ha in size	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	December 2024	All departments	Various partners Private sector organisations (notably developers)	External funding
	12) Look to develop a local tree nursery in partnership with third party organisations.	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	December 2026	Places, Neighbourhood Services & Transport	Various partners Private sector organisations (notably developers), land owners.	Addition funding and externally sourced funding
	13) Draft trees, woodlands and Hedges SPG to reflect the climate emergency	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	2024	Place	Planning Department	Part of the ongoing LDP process.
	14) Launch a web page for the Council's internet site giving information on trees throughout the Vale.	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	April 2025	Neighbourhood Services & Transport Corporate Communications	Corporate Communications	Existing resources
Amd. No.2	15) Actively seek funding opportunities to plant more trees on Council land to increase the town tree canopy. <i>"Actively seek funding streams through third party organisations, external grant funds and internal grant funding opportunities to assist with planting more trees on Council land and to increase the town tree canopy".</i>	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	On-going	Neighbourhood Services & Transport Planning	Various partners Private sector organisations (notably developers)	£106 /CIL etc.
	16) Launch a voluntary friends of Trees Scheme	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	September 2025	Neighbourhood Services & Transport Corporate Communications	Stakeholders (including Town and Community Councils) Education, Social Services, Housing, Estates, Countryside, Highways	Existing resources

	Action	Corporate Plan Objective	Well Being Objective	Time	Lead Dept	Other Partners	Funding
	17) Review the tree strategy every 2 years	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	2026	All departments	Stakeholders (including Town and Community Councils) Education, Social Services, Housing, Estates, Countryside, Highways	Existing resources
	18) To increase canopy cover by 5% (7.5%) across the Council estate over the next 15 years	An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale	To protect, enhance and value our environment	2039	All departments	Stakeholders (including Town and Community Councils) Education, Social Services, Housing, Estates, Countryside, Highways	Additional funding required
	19) I.Tree survey to be repeated, to ensure that targets have been achieved.		To protect, enhance and value our environment	2032	Countryside & Environmental		Additional funding required
	20) Incorporate the tree strategy into the Green Infrastructure plan		To protect, enhance and value our environment	2024	All departments		Existing resources
Amd. No.6?	21) <i>Develop a tree sponsorship scheme</i>	<i>An Environmentally Responsible and Prosperous Vale</i>	<i>To protect, enhance and value our environment</i>	<i>2027</i>	<i>Neighbourhood Services & Transport</i>	<i>Stakeholders (including Town and Community Councils) Education, Social Services, Housing, Estates, Countryside, Highways</i>	<i>Additional funding required</i>

APPENDIX 4 Frequently asked questions

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THE COUNCILS POSITION:

1. The tree looks dangerous and moves in the wind.

The Council has a qualified tree expert who will inspect any tree following an enquiry or in line with the Tree Risk Management Strategy following routine inspections. Our inspection will determine its condition and safety. Trees have a natural movement in windy conditions with flexing of the trunk and movement of branches being quite a normal response.

2. The tree has not been pruned for a long time. It is too tall and needs to be pruned.

Trees across the Vale are regularly assessed, and any safety or maintenance related works are reported at this time. The Council does not reduce the height of trees as a matter of course, as this can stimulate rapid re-growth and/or cause defects in the tree's structure and exacerbate the original reported issue.

The Council will prune highways trees as necessary also ensure that encroaching branches are pruned where they are obstructing roads and footpaths, hiding streetlights, road signs and other street furniture, so as to maintain vehicular and pedestrian safety on the highway.

3. Tree branches encroaching a garden/boundary.

When tree branches or roots encroach on to neighbouring land they are legally regarded as a nuisance. Under the terms of law the tree owner is not obliged to cut back the branches overhanging their neighbours' garden unless damage is being caused. However, the owner of the adjacent land has the legal right to 'abate the nuisance' by cutting the branches or roots encroaching on other property.

Where requests are made to prune trees that overhang a boundary each instance will be assessed on its merits. As a general policy, the Council will only undertake work where a tree's branches touch or are very close to an occupied building and consequently could cause physical damage.

4. Shading and Blocking Views

Householders have no right to light from across a neighbour's land. Likewise, there is no right to a view, and a view obstructed by the growth of trees cannot legally be regarded as a nuisance.

Where requests are made to prune trees to increase light levels, as a general policy the Council will not undertake pruning simply to allow more light to a property.

An individual's tolerance of shade or their need for light is a subjective and personal matter whilst some people prefer shade there are those that have desire for sunlight. Many people are aware of the ancient and prescriptive right to light, but this only relates to loss of light over a considerable period of time in certain specific circumstances. Where trees are concerned there is no 'right to light'.

5. TV/Satellite Reception.

There is no legal right to television reception. Existing trees on neighbouring land which interfere with television reception, especially with satellite transmissions, are unlikely to be regarded as a nuisance in law. The Council will not carry out tree pruning simply to improve television or satellite reception, where the trees in question would not otherwise require pruning.

In the vast majority of cases, interference can be reduced by an engineering solution such as the relocation of the aerial or by the use of "booster boxes", which often improve the reception significantly.

6. Pollen and Allergies

Whilst some kinds of tree pollen are known to bring on in sufferers the symptoms of hay fever this is not considered justification for either the pruning of Council trees, or their removal.

7. Leaf fall

The Council does not carry out a public leaf collection service. Although complaints are sometimes received about the problems caused by leaves falling from trees, the loss of leaves from trees in the autumn is part of the natural cycle and cannot be avoided by pruning. The maintenance of gardens and gutters is the responsibility of the landowner and the Council is not obliged to remove leaves that may have fallen from Council owned trees. Where gutters are regularly blocked by fallen leaves gutter guards may be fitted to provide a low maintenance solution.

8. Fruit, berries and nut fall

There are certain locations where fruit trees are not desirable, for example where soft fruit would make the pavement slippery or where anti-social behaviour could encourage fruit being thrown at houses or cars. When considering the 'right tree for the right place, the Council takes account of the likelihood of such problems. Equally, where fruit trees are established but where there is a significant anti-social behaviour problem the Council will consider phased removal and replacement in extreme cases.

9. Sap/ honeydew -The tree is making a sticky mess on my car or garden.

Honeydew is caused by greenfly (aphids) feeding on the tree, which excrete a sugary sap. Often the honeydew is colonised by a mould, which causes it to go black. This is a particular problem with tree species such as lime and sycamore.

Unfortunately, there is little that can be done to remove the aphid which causes the problem and pruning the tree may only offer temporary relief. Any re-growth is often more likely to be colonised by greenfly thereby potentially increasing the problem. Honeydew is a natural and seasonal problem. Where new trees are planted we try to choose trees that are less likely to cause this problem. Where honeydew affects cars, warm soapy water will remove the substance, particularly if you wash the car as soon as possible.

10. Bird droppings

Bird droppings may be a nuisance, but the problem is not considered a sufficient reason to prune or remove a tree. Even when branches are pruned, the bird will often just move to another branch.

Nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and other related wildlife law). Warm soapy water will usually be sufficient to remove the bird droppings.

11. The tree is causing damage to my drains

Tree roots typically invade drains that are already broken or damaged. Trees themselves very rarely break or damage the drain in the first place. Tree roots found in a drain are usually symptomatic of an underlying problem requiring repair of the broken pipe.

Tree roots will not normally penetrate an unbroken drain. If a drain is already broken, tree roots may penetrate it. The simple remedy is to repair the drain".

Amd.
No.15

Tree roots can cause damage to paving, lawns and the foundations of buildings or walls.

"Tree roots can cause damage to paving, lawns and the foundations of light structures such as garden walls, conservatories, etc"

Amd.
No.16

Again, where a neighbour's tree is causing problems, an owner is within their rights to cut back roots to the boundary of their property, unless it is protected by a TPO or is within a Conservation Area. However, appropriate advice must be sought from a suitably qualified arboricultural consultant to minimise the risk of undermining the future health and stability of the tree that may lead to liability for any future damage caused.

"We will not normally fell or prune a tree that is implicated in direct damage to structures. There is no need to reduce the transpiration of the tree so it is not necessary to prune or remove the tree to remedy direct damage. If there is a risk of branches of a Council owned tree impacting the superstructure of a building, we will remove or prune the relevant branches."

Amd.
No.17

12. The tree is covered in ivy and is killing it

Ivy is a climbing plant abundant as a groundcover shrub in many rural types of woodland. It has a variety of conservation benefits and forms an integral part of woodland's habitat. In the urban environment there is a need to balance three main considerations for its retention: tree safety, conservation and aesthetics.

In some situations, it may be considered unsightly and more importantly can create problems for

efficient management by obscuring potential defects and fungal fruiting bodies. It also increases the weight of a tree's crown and the 'sail' effect during the wet, windier, winter months, when deciduous trees have shed their leaves. As a general policy the Council undertakes the removal of ivy from trees only where it is considered necessary to aid visual tree health assessment.

13. I have a big tree near my property. I am worried about the damage the roots may be doing to my house. What should I do?

Tree roots may potentially cause damage to built structures in two ways:

Direct damage – this is caused when the physical expansion of tree roots or stem lifts paving stones or cracks walls etc. Due to the weight of a house no amount of physical expansion will affect it, but garden walls and small structures such as garages or outbuildings might be at risk.

Indirect damage – this can be caused to larger structures such as houses when tree's roots grow underneath the foundations, extract the water there causing clay soils to shrink and the structure to subside. If a building has been built on clay soil near an existing tree, and that tree is then removed, the soil may expand which can cause heave (the opposite of subsidence).

Modern building standards mean that the risk to newer buildings tends to be isolated and the Council will expect new buildings to be built to industry guidance and therefore they should not subside due to trees that were in existence at the time they were built. Should you believe that trees are the cause of cracking to a property, you should consult with your building insurers to determine the probable cause.

See Appendix 5 for guidance

"Subsidence - is the downward movement of the ground supporting the building. Damage occurs because the movement is often uneven, causing cracks in walls, floors, and ceilings. The main cause of subsidence in the UK is the shrinkage in dry weather of clay soils which expand and contract with changes in their moisture content." (source - ABI)

Trees are rarely the prime cause, particularly the only cause, of subsidence. Trees and other significant vegetation can worsen the effects of subsidence because they extract moisture from the soil through their roots. This results in "indirect damage" to buildings by trees. Other factors such as damaged drainage and poor build quality can also cause subsidence.

Non-cohesive soils such as sand and gravel are not shrinkable, as their volume does not alter with a change in moisture content, and so structures on these soils should be unaffected by subsidence attributable to indirect damage by trees.

Heave takes place when previously dehydrated soil takes up water and swells. This can happen after the felling or removal of vegetation.

Subsidence is more common in Victorian and Edwardian houses as their foundations are shallower. This makes them more susceptible to damage from any seasonal movements in the ground.

Modern building standards mean that the risk to newer buildings tends to be isolated and they should not subside due to trees that were in existence at the time they were built.

Buildings naturally shrink and swell in response to changes in temperature and humidity, leading to minor cracks where walls and ceilings meet. New homes and recently built extensions often experience cracking as the structures settle under their own weight. If you suspect your property has suffered from subsidence damage, contact your insurer as soon as possible.

If it is believed that a council-owned tree has contributed to the subsidence, your insurers will make contact with the Council and any other relevant parties to ascertain whether there is a legitimate claim. The insurer is responsible for producing detailed reports to corroborate the claim. For legal reasons we cannot comment on any claim made against the Council. Please direct any suspected claims to your Insurer and not the Council.

The VoG Council has committed to signing up to a specific subsidence protocol for dealing with subsidence-related tree root claims called the Joint Mitigation Protocol (JMP). This aims to improve the way and speed that subsidence claims are dealt with by councils and insurers. It also enables an agreement on whether the tree should be removed, pruned to reduce its water uptake, or left as it is, all depending on the proven damage to the house and also the value of the tree.

The principal aim of the JMP is to reduce the number and cost of tree root claims to local authorities, and to minimise the needless loss of mature trees. The benefits of these cost reductions will be enjoyed by both the local authority and insurers alike, but crucially not at the expense of losing from the town's

skyline one of its most recognisable assets, its trees.

See Appendix 5 for more detail of the JMP.

14. Can I have new trees planted outside my house/in my street?

Tree planting will be incorporated into the cyclical program to ensure newly planted trees are distributed where they are most needed, where resources are available. The planting season is normally from October to the beginning of March each year.

15. How can I tell if my tree is safe?

Advice should be sought by a professional qualified arboriculturalist. You can find qualified arborists on the Arboricultural Association website <https://www.trees.org.uk/Registered-Consultant-Directory>

The Council unfortunately will not generally get involved in private matters unless there is an issue of public safety but will offer general advice in the best way to resolve any issues residents may be experiencing.

16. What do I do if I think someone is carrying out work on a protected tree or intends to do so?

You can check the Vale of Glamorgan website interactive map available at website to see if the tree is protected through a Tree Preservation Order or is within a Conservation Area. Trees and Hedges (valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

Locate the site you are interested in and then select the Environment and Planning category on the map. Then you can select 'conservation area' or 'tree preservation orders' to see if the site includes any protected trees. You can also check the planning history of the site to see if permission has been granted for work to a tree.

If you believe unauthorised work is being carried out, contact the Council call centre immediately on 01446 700111. All queries regarding potentially unauthorised works will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

17. My neighbours have a high hedge. What can I do about it?

The High Hedge Regulations were made by the Welsh Assembly Government in December 2004

and came into force on 31st December 2004. The regulations apply to evergreen and semi-evergreen hedges of over two metres in height.

See link - [Trees and Hedges \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](http://TreesandHedges.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

The legislation provides for those who feel that a neighbour's hedge is hindering the reasonable enjoyment of their property to submit a formal complaint to the Council. The Council will then investigate the matter and may, if considered appropriate, serve a notice on the hedge owner requiring them to reduce the hedges height.

In most cases, it is possible for neighbours to agree on a course of action without formal complaint being necessary. This is certainly the preferable approach for all concerned. If you are unable to reach agreement with your neighbour, try contacting a local mediation service, the mediation process is essential before making a formal complaint to the Council.

APPENDIX 5

TREES, BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

The potential of indirect (subsidence) and direct root damage to property within urban settings with trees in close proximity to buildings and structures can on occasion escalate to potential claims, although dependant on various factors, trees can co-exist with a structure or building without any detrimental effects.

How the Council respond to tree related claims

The Council will challenge non substantiated claims or enquiries that do not meet the criteria set in policy and documents therein.

In response to claims the Council has adopted the guidance documents below which ensure responses in dealing with claims in relation to trees and damage to property in an efficient and cost-effective process. This will provide a consistent response dealing proactively with claims and enquiries in relation to trees and vegetation.

“ It is the enquirers and claimant’s responsibility to substantiate with evidence any damage to property, the council will consult with appropriate colleagues and professionals in consideration of the enquiry and claims to evaluate and conclude ”

Residents who have concerns in regard to damage to property in relation to trees and vegetation would be advised to discuss with their insurance providers on such matters, additionally the Council are more than happy to discuss concerns raised.

“Contact the company that you have building insurance cover with. They will make contact with the council and any other relevant parties to ascertain whether there is a legitimate claim. The insurer is responsible for producing detailed reports to corroborate the claim. For legal reasons we cannot comment on any claim made against the council. Please direct any suspected claims to your Insurer and not the Council. The Tree Service will not have any direct contact with the claimant.”

Amd.
No.19

Joint Mitigation Protocol

A method agreed with multi-industry partners and L.T.O.A. (*London Tree Officers Association*) for the process and investigation of root tree induced building damage with benchmarked timescales for responses and standards of evidence.

This will be Council procedural guidance in dealing with all enquiries and claims regarding direct and indirect damage to property.

“This will be Council procedural guidance in dealing with all enquiries and claims regarding subsidence damage to buildings in which a Council owned tree is alleged to be implicated. The JMP aims to improve the way and speed that subsidence claims are dealt with by councils and insurers.”

Amd.
No.20

The Protocol is intended to reflect the spirit of the Civil Procedure Rules and aims to ensure that before the commencement of any proceedings:

- Pre action contact and exchange of information are encouraged
- Improved quality evidence and information is presented in support of the claim
- Both parties have provided sufficient clear evidence and information regarding their position on the matter
- Each party has had the opportunity to consider the evidence and information
- Each party can accept or reject the claim or each other’s position at the earliest possible stage
- Each party can modify its own position at the earliest possible stage
- The time period between notification and completion of co-operation or rejection of the claim is reduced
- The issue of tree removal / reduction / replanting is completed on a non-adversarial and ecologically friendly basis
- There is an opportunity for both parties to meet informally without prejudice to liability and resolve disputed cases

Evidential Requirements for Council Owned Trees

(see the table below)

Date of Submission	31-03-2008	Interim	Summary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statutory Authority	Any Town Council			
Property Owner	A.N.Other			
Damage Address	Address: 2 The Avenue Any Town SX1 5PH			
Area of Damage	Stepped cracking to front lounge, entrance hall stairs, plus front two bedrooms.	Category per BRE 251 3		
Site Plan <small>To include all relevant vegetation and significant drain layout. Plan to indicate position of rooms</small>	Attached. Drainage to rear not detailed as remote beyond any potential significance.			
Photographs <small>These are indicative and are not a complete record of the full extent of the damage</small>	Attached – showing general situation, policyholder's hedge and Local Authority street tree			
Arboricultural report	Not obtained			
Details of Statutory Authority Third Party Vegetation	One - Street tree within pavement to front right of house			
Details of Policyholder Vegetation	Beech hedge 2m high 3m from corner of house			
Details of Other Third Party Vegetation	None			
Root Analysis	Plane (confirms subject tree) 1.5m below fdn			
Foundation depth	750mm below ground level			
Subsoil	Clay - see attached analysis			
Factors indicating clay shrinkage	Pattern of damage shows rotation towards the street tree Timing of damage - started late summer, not now progressive Attached site investigation data indicates desiccation to 3.00M as shown by the soil suction profile, compares with root profile to 2.70M			
Date damage discovered	September 2007			
Monitoring	Not obtained. All evidence obtained clearly demonstrates influence of the street tree			
Drains	None to front of property			
Estimated cost of repairs	Protocol Mitigation	Delayed / Rejected Mitigation		
Investigation	£ 800	£ 1,400		
Substructure	Not anticipated	£ 8,300		
Superstructure	£ 6,800	£ 7,400		
Alt Accn	Not anticipated	Not anticipated		
Fees & Expenses	£ 1,900	£ 2,100		
Total	£ 9,500	£19,200		
Mitigation Request	Immediate removal of street tree			
Comments (use this box to add further engineering comments if required or advise if engineering report attached)	Customer's beech hedge not considered relevant and all roots sampled were Plane			

Joint Mitigation Protocol Evidential Requirements for Council Owned Trees

Maximum Timeline in	Building Insurer (or their representative) visits the property & assesses if cause of damage is subsidence and if council tree or other factors are likely to be implicated. If the tree, then the Tree Controller/Risk Manager is identified.
7 days	Building Insurer (or their rep.) writes to Tree Controller within 7 calendar days of identifying Tree Controller seeking: 1. Contact details of the individual/department responsible for control of the tree, along with any reference, to assist communication regarding tree management and liability. 2. Contact details of their liability Insurer if appropriate. 3. The value of the tree (low, medium or high) as determined by the Tree Officer.
21 days	Within 14 calendar days of receiving the correspondence referred to above, the Tree Controller/Tree Officer will respond to the Building Insurer (or their rep.) giving responses to questions 1, 2 & 3 above.
81 days	Within 60 calendar days of receiving the value of the council tree, the Building Insurer (or their rep.) will submit either: a) A letter confirming withdrawal of the case, on the basis that the site investigation has not implicated the council tree in the damage, and that the file should be closed. b) A “ Submission of Evidence ” based on the tree’s CAVAT value with the requested mitigation (pruning/felling). Low Value Trees - may be removed & replaced. Medium Value Trees - make an important contribution to the area. High Value Trees - make an extremely important contribution to the area. Low Value Trees: 1. Report on damage to building. 2. Plan & profile of foundations. 3. Plan of site showing location of building in relation to all trees and significant vegetation in vicinity of site. 4. Trial pit cross section to underside of foundation depth plus borehole through base of trial pit to a minimum depth of 3m (explanation to be provided if borehole unable to reach 3m depth). Borehole log to be provided. 5. Root ID from beneath underside of foundation. Medium Value Trees: All of the above plus: 6. Soil moisture content readings at 0.5m centres, starting at the underside of the foundation, down to 3m depth of B/H. 7. Liquid limit test results at underside of foundation and approx 2m depth 8. Plastic limit test results at underside of foundation and approx 2m depth. 9. Soil plasticity calculated from LL – PL. 10. Control borehole to 3m depth with log, with same tests as above, if it is possible to locate such a borehole on the site and remote from the influence of any vegetation. If impossible then explanation needed. 11. Oedometer or suction test results at underside of foundation & 1.0m centres down depth of 3m borehole ONLY when there is NO control borehole. If there is a control borehole then other tests listed are sufficient. 12. Shear vane test results at 0.5m centres, starting at the underside of the foundation, down to 3m depth of borehole(s). 13. CCTV & hydraulic testing to drains (excluding Water Board owned) located within 3m distance of area of subsidence damage. If unable to water test due to no access/blind entries/etc then give reason. 14. Crack monitoring is required on a maximum of 2 month frequency and is to be set up ideally at time of first visit by building insurer representative or within 7 days of 1 st visit. Send all available readings with Submission of Evidence. High Value Trees: All of the above EXCEPT crack width monitoring, plus: 15. Control borehole (if possible) & point of subsidence borehole, each to 5m depth (not 3m as for medium value). 16. Level monitoring commencing at outset of claim for a relevant period (max. 12 months) using a deep datum (if possible) to 8m depth, otherwise use deep manhole. 17. Particle Size Distribution Analysis to BS 1377 Part 2 test 9.0 on a single soil sample taken from a 1m zone below the underside of foundation (Only if drains are present within 3m of the site of damage).

Source: London Tree Officers Association Joint Mitigation Protocol: Submission of Evidence (Appendix A)

Working Together for a Brighter Future

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 www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk