

Merton Council
Cabinet
19 June 2023
Supplementary Agenda

14 Tree Strategy Appendix 2

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466 respondents accessed the campaign

Step 1:1.00-1:

Please tell us which of these benefits of trees are most important to you.

This multiple response question was answered by 463 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Visual amenity - they improve the appearance of an area	197	42.55%
Absorb carbon dioxide	201	43.41%
Shade and cooling in hot weather	79	17.06%
Filtering pollution from the air	225	48.60%
Raise the value of property	6	1.30%
Improve health and well-being	173	37.37%
Provide visual identity and a sense of place	54	11.66%
Provide a connection to nature	143	30.89%
Part of our heritage	28	6.05%
Wildlife habitat	240	51.84%
Other	12	2.59%

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Step 1:1.01-1:Please Specify

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 12 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
Bring birds and other wildlife to the area	1
but they need to be planted in appropriate places where their root systems will not cause damage to properties	1
Edible fruits. I wish there were more fruit trees around, it's great to go out foraging with my kids in our local Green where we have some fruit trees. I wish there were more around.	1
Enhance environment	1
every option here	1
Mitigate impact of Climate Emergency and support Climate Action Plan	1

None	1
Preserving Merton species	1
Provide food (nectar and fruit/berries) for pollinators and birds	1
Provide protection from harmful microwave radiation such as from phone masts and 5G	1
Southside Common	1
They provide many benefits but sometimes they just out grow themselves	1

Step 1:2.00-1:

Please tell us which of the following problems caused by trees are most important to you?

This multiple response question was answered by 388 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
They might break or fall over in stormy weather and cause harm	107	27.58%
Branch growth interfering with satellite TV reception	9	2.32%
Mess caused by leaf loss in autumn	97	25%
Mess caused by bird droppings	32	8.25%
Roots lifting paving slabs causing uneven surfaces and trip hazards	238	61.34%
Damage to buildings: subsidence caused by trees drying-out the soil	130	33.51%
Block out too much light	65	16.75%
Sticky mess and mould caused by aphid honeydew	48	12.37%
Hay fever and other allergies	38	9.79%
Mess associated with fruit fall	39	10.05%
Other	45	11.60%

Step 1:2.01-1:Please Specify

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 45 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
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An old cedar tree has a large branch, now extending to a street light, and onto a tree on the property where I live. Additionally, saplings have grown, and hang over the road, so vehicles are hit by their branches.	1
Block out light from street lamps on Dorset Road as the lamps are above the tree canopy	1
Blocking pavements/step free access for wheelchair use	1
Branch growth overhanging on the pavements and you can't walk past	1
Broken branches left	1
Broken dead branches left on grass	1
Council not actively pruning trees in there parks unless challenged. Council resources taking too long to clear leaves.	1
Excessively tall street trees with a wide spread cause inconvenience to road users, pedestrians and occupiers of properties through fallen branches, twigs and leaves.	1
Failure of Merton Council to pollard trees for 3 years now	1
Helping out the crime sometimes	1
honey fungus spreading from a diseased street tree to garden shrubs	1
I have no problems with trees. They do not produce mess. Leaves are good for wildlife. Fruit should be used not wasted. Please contact Abundance Wimbledon if you are unable to pick your own fruit.	1
I think all the other options are too mild to be considered 'problems'. They are all far outweighed by the benefits of the trees.	1
It is the encroachment of human activity that cause the perceived problems. If you build houses near an oak tree and 100 years later there is problems with the building its not the tree but the planning at fault. Tree should have leagel protection from future cliams if byilding are put too close. I could go on...	1

Mess from leaves decomposing and creating a slippery surface along the Wandle	1
Most of the above problems are caused if the trees are not properly being cared for.	1
No concerns, trees are great	1
no problems what so ever	1
No such thing as too many trees	1
No tree has caused me an issue	1
None	2
None - benefits far outweigh all these risks	1
none - trees are an asset	1
None because the advantages of a well chosen tree in right place outweighs all of these	1
None of these	1
None of these are a problem they are the offset of having nature and trees	1
None of these are issues to me.	1
None of these cause me a problem nor should they be the driver for destroying a tree!	1
None of these issues are too sufficient to warrant questioning if trees should be planted/protected/looked after	1
None, compared with the mess humans leave around in the way of litter	1
None, trees should be protected at all cost	1
None. I see no downside of having trees	1
None. Trees dont cause any problems	1
overhang into roads gets damaged or snapped off by large vehicles	1
Overhanging branches from neighbouring properties with owners unwilling to trim or cut back branches	1
Risk of falls in elderly if leaf fall not frequently cleared in autumn	1
Risk that Merton Council could unilaterally fell beautiful trees that make my area special	1
Roots cause damage to house foundations	1

Street trees not cared for - die back not removed, pruning irregular / infrequent	1
The trees are not pruned often enough letting them grow too large for their setting.	1
There should be an option for "There are no problems which are important to me" That's what I want to tick	1
There's no tree maintenance checks in place on a regular basis in residential roads	1
Trees on narrow pavements such as in the John Innes area - they make it very difficult for pushchairs/wheelchairs	1
We have no problems with trees	1

Step 2:3.00-1:

Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements?

(Merton Council's management needs to focus on maximising tree benefits and minimising tree problems.)

This single response question was answered by 440 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	276	62.73%
Agree	130	29.55%
Disagree	18	4.09%
Strongly disagree	7	1.59%
Don't know	9	2.05%

Step 2:3.00-2:

Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements?

problems.)

This single response question was answered by 441 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	308	69.84%
Agree	104	23.58%

Disagree	12	2.72%
Strongly disagree	8	1.81%
Don't know	9	2.04%

Step 2:3.00-3:

Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements?

(Merton Council must maximise viable tree planting opportunities.)

This single response question was answered by 443 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	355	80.14%
Agree	61	13.77%
Disagree	12	2.71%
Strongly disagree	9	2.03%
Don't know	6	1.35%

Step 2:4.00-1:

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements?

their trees.)

This single response question was answered by 425 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	224	52.71%
Agree	156	36.71%
Disagree	27	6.35%
Strongly disagree	6	1.41%
Don't know	12	2.82%

Step 2:4.00-2:

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements?

(Merton Council should have clear 'strategic goals' so that they can maximise tree benefits in Merton)

This single response question was answered by 427 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	260	60.89%
Agree	146	34.19%
Disagree	8	1.87%
Strongly disagree	4	0.94%
Don't know	9	2.11%

Step 2:4.00-3:

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements?

(Merton Council should keep their trees in a reasonably 'safe' condition)

This single response question was answered by 430 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	273	63.49%
Agree	145	33.72%
Disagree	5	1.16%
Strongly disagree	2	0.47%
Don't know	5	1.16%

Step 2:4.00-4:

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements?

(Merton Council should identify and effectively deal with potential council-owned tree damage to buildings)

This single response question was answered by 425 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	214	50.35%
Agree	174	40.94%
Disagree	22	5.18%
Strongly disagree	7	1.65%
Don't know	8	1.88%

Step 2:4.00-5:

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements?

diseases)

This single response question was answered by 428 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	226	52.80%
Agree	174	40.65%
Disagree	14	3.27%
Strongly disagree	6	1.40%
Don't know	8	1.87%

Step 2:4.00-6:

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements?

have died)

This single response question was answered by 431 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	320	74.25%
Agree	95	22.04%
Disagree	5	1.16%
Strongly disagree	6	1.39%
Don't know	5	1.16%

Step 2:5.00-1:

trees?

outweigh tree problems and/or wider positive outcomes)

This single response question was answered by 425 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
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Strongly agree	279	65.65%
Agree	96	22.59%
Disagree	31	7.29%
Strongly disagree	10	2.35%
Don't know	9	2.12%

Step 2:5.00-2:

trees?

(opportunity to establish and grow)

This single response question was answered by 420 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	316	75.24%
Agree	94	22.38%
Disagree	2	0.48%
Strongly disagree	4	0.95%
Don't know	4	0.95%

Step 2:5.00-3:

trees?

(problems when they are reported)

This single response question was answered by 424 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	256	60.38%
Agree	152	35.85%
Disagree	11	2.59%
Strongly disagree		
Don't know	5	1.18%

Step 2:5.00-4:

trees?

financial compensation)

This single response question was answered by 422 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	225	53.32%
Agree	139	32.94%
Disagree	24	5.69%
Strongly disagree	9	2.13%
Don't know	25	5.92%

Step 2:6.00-1:

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements in regards to tree planting?

place')

This single response question was answered by 420 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	286	68.10%
Agree	121	28.81%
Disagree	5	1.19%
Strongly disagree	2	0.48%
Don't know	6	1.43%

Step 2:6.00-2:

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements in regards to tree planting?

(Merton Council should identify areas of council-owned land where trees can be planted and established)

This single response question was answered by 419 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	307	73.27%
Agree	99	23.63%
Disagree	4	0.95%

Strongly disagree	5	1.19%
Don't know	4	0.95%

Step 2:6.00-3:

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements in regards to tree planting?

are currently fewer trees)

This single response question was answered by 416 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	235	56.49%
Agree	130	31.25%
Disagree	31	7.45%
Strongly disagree	8	1.92%
Don't know	12	2.88%

Step 2:6.00-4:

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements in regards to tree planting?

new trees)

This single response question was answered by 414 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	87	21.01%
Agree	120	28.99%
Disagree	107	25.85%
Strongly disagree	48	11.59%
Don't know	52	12.56%

Step 2:6.00-5:

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements in regards to tree planting?

heathland)

This single response question was answered by 417 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	133	31.89%
Agree	150	35.97%
Disagree	46	11.03%
Strongly disagree	16	3.84%
Don't know	72	17.27%

Step 2:7.00-1:

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements about working with others?

encourage more widespread tree planting on private land)

This single response question was answered by 417 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	199	47.72%
Agree	161	38.61%
Disagree	26	6.24%
Strongly disagree	12	2.88%
Don't know	19	4.56%

Step 2:7.00-2:

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements about working with others?

sections of the council)

This single response question was answered by 413 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	216	52.30%
Agree	165	39.95%
Disagree	9	2.18%
Strongly disagree	2	0.48%
Don't know	21	5.08%

Step 2:7.00-3:

Please tell us to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements about working with others?

management goals)

This single response question was answered by 417 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	243	58.27%
Agree	140	33.57%
Disagree	13	3.12%
Strongly disagree	5	1.20%
Don't know	16	3.84%

Step 3:9.00-1:

Please tell us if you are replying on behalf of any organisation?

This single response question was answered by 413 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	8	1.94%
No	405	98.06%

Step 3:9.01-1:Please tell us which organisation

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 8 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
No comment	1
Friends of Colliers Wood Parks and Greenspaces	1
Merton Friends of the Earth	1
Scout group SW20 0sz	1
The Tree Warden Group Merton	1
The Woodland Trust	1
Willmore End Residents Association (WERA)	1
Wimbledon Society	1

Step 3:10.00-1:

Please tell us what kind of organisation you are responding on behalf of?

This single response question was answered by 8 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Statutory organisation		
Voluntary / charitable organisation	5	62.50%
Business or commercial organisation		
Friends group	2	25%
Residents association or group		
Other	1	12.50%

Step 3:10.01-1:Please Specify

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 1 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
I'm not an organisation	1

Step 3:11.00-1:

Are you?

This single response question was answered by 390 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Male	130	33.33%
Female	256	65.64%
Other	4	1.03%

Step 3:11.01-1:Please Specify

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 4 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
none if your business	1
Nope	1

not relevant	1
The Society has no gender	1

Step 3:12.00-1:

Do you consider that you are disabled?

This single response question was answered by 382 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	30	7.85%
No	352	92.15%

Step 3:13.00-1:What is your age?

This single response question was answered by 385 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Under 15	1	0.26%
15 to 24	3	0.78%
25 to 44	76	19.74%
45 to 64	176	45.71%
65 and over	129	33.51%

Step 3:14.00-1:

Do you live in Merton?

This single response question was answered by 412 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	406	98.54%
No	6	1.46%

Step 3:15.00-1:

Please indicate which Merton ward you live in.

If you don't know which ward you live in, you can find out by entering your postcode in the "My

This single response question was answered by 398 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Abbey	15	3.77%
Cannon Hill	46	11.56%
Colliers Wood	23	5.78%
Cricket Green	16	4.02%
Dundonald	25	6.28%
Figge's Marsh	13	3.27%
Graveney	2	0.50%
Hillside	13	3.27%
Lavender Fields		
Longthornton	4	1.01%
Lower Morden	16	4.02%
Merton Park	60	15.08%
Pollards Hill	3	0.75%
Ravensbury	12	3.02%
Raynes Park	26	6.53%
St Helier	14	3.52%
Trinity	22	5.53%
Village	10	2.51%
West Barnes	43	10.80%
Wimbledon Park	28	7.04%
Don't Know	7	1.76%

Step 3:16.00-1:

What is your connection to Merton?

This open response (Free text) question was answered by 5 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents
I am a long term resident of Merton until moving away last year but still very much involved with the Tree Warden Group Merton and other environment groups.	1

I lived in Merton from 1996 to 2021, being a volunteer tree warden throughout that time.	1
I represent the Woodland Trust across London and the South East.	1
Live close to the borough	1
Visit	1

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