

Vale of Glamorgan Council Draft Tree Strategy Consultation Outcome

Recap: Why do we need a tree strategy?

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.

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)*

Improving Image



Street trees improve the image of our neighbourhoods and make them even better places to live, work and invest.



Building Communities

Getting residents involved in caring for their trees helps them re-connect with their neighbours.

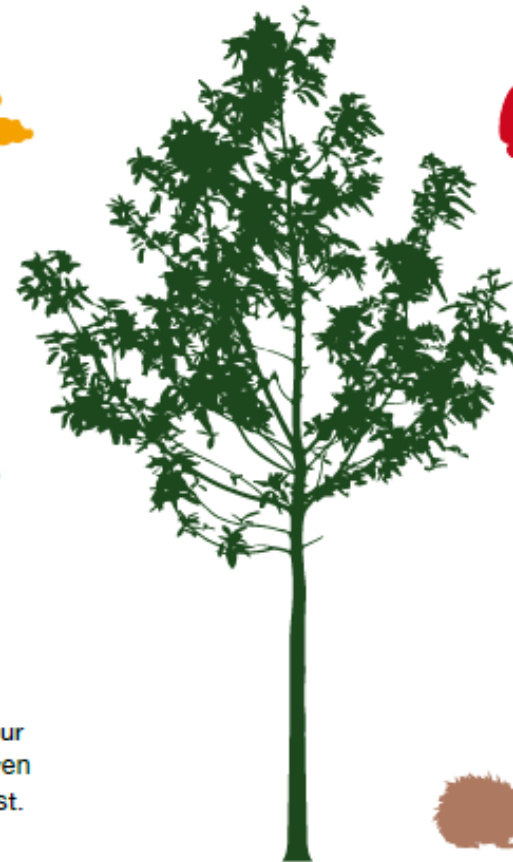


Boosting Health

Research shows that children who live in tree-lined streets have lower rates of asthma. *(Columbia University, USA)*

Benefiting Wildlife

As well as being great for people, street trees also offer much needed habitat for wildlife too.

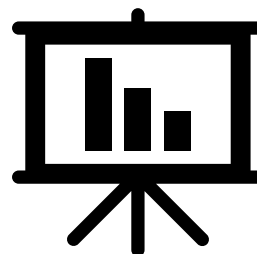


The Consultation Process:

We undertook a 12-week online consultation (end date 18th April 2024)

410 responses to the online consultation plus 3 written responses.

We have analysed the responses from this consultation and will now feedback

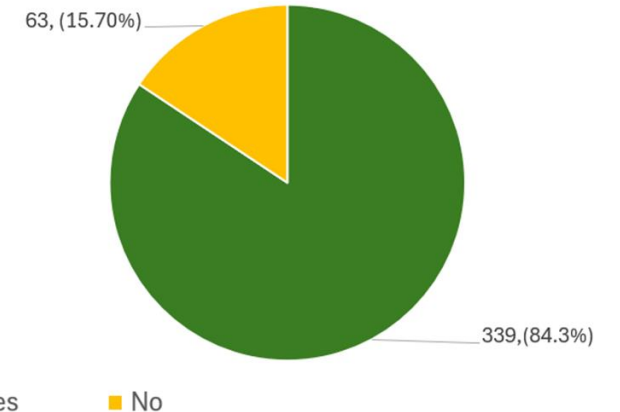
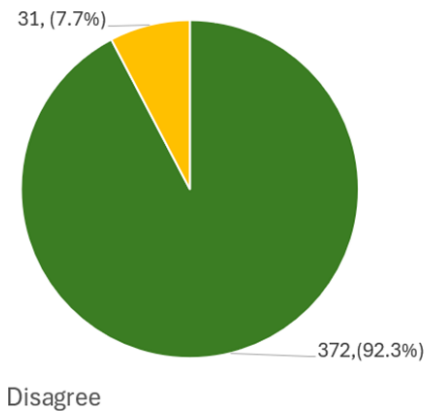
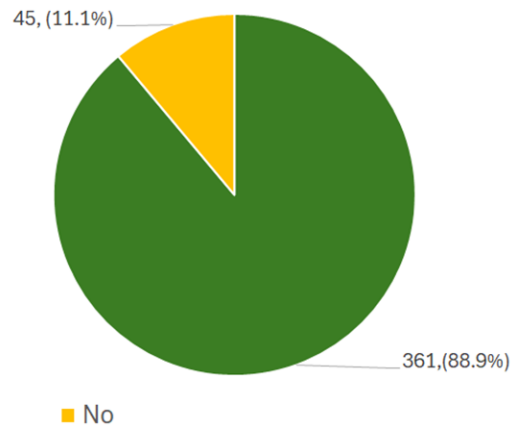


Consultation Results:

88.9 % agreed that it is right to focus resources on protecting and managing our existing tree stock

92.3% agreed that we should focus on long term benefits of trees and other natural habitats in tackling the nature and climate emergencies

84.3% agreed that the strategy should focus on tree planting initiatives in built up areas, and areas where there is less than 15% canopy cover



Feedback on our guiding principles:

84.0% 92.8% 91.3%

87.4% 83.1% 90.3%

90.6% 82.4% 80.1%

Protect and care for our tree stock

Retain existing mature tree stock, wherever possible in both public and private settings

Identify suitable locations across the Council's land holding where additional tree planting can be accommodated

Ensure that trees that are lost are replaced in greater numbers by planting a minimum of 2 trees for every one removed

Commit to plant a minimum of 1500 trees annually

Develop tree planting schemes / allow natural regeneration

Ensure that the right tree is planted in the right place

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

Comments & Themes:

807 individual comments.....

6 key themes.....

Theme 1: Maintenance



“too many trees pruned unnecessarily or too drastically”

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

Theme 2: Development / Planning Decisions



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

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

Theme 3: The Need for Planting



“The council need to plant more trees”

“Widespread planting should take place”

Theme 5: Canopy Cover Target



“Not ambitious enough , need to increase the percentage”

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

Theme 4: Street Tree Planting



“Street Trees are hugely important”

“Every street should be ones with trees”

Theme 6: User Groups



“Support should be given to local communities also planting trees”

“Speak to Tree Lady Rhoose, she is 3 years in front of you”

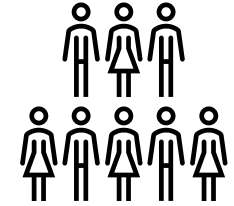
Written Responses & Strategy Revisions

3 written responses were also received from
Community groups:

Penarth Tree Forum

Gwyrddio Penarth Greening

Friends of the Earth Barry



*From these written responses, comments & themes Rev. 2 has been produced..
21 changes /additions (including 5% increase to 7.5% increase)*

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)



Amd. No.4

levels of deprivation.

- 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..”

Thank you for listening.....