

NEWS: COMMUNITY ANGERED BY FELLING BID

# Residents' fury at oak tree axe

By MOLLY LYNCH  
molly.lynch@thestar.co.uk  
@mollygracelynch

**An area of Sheffield stands to lose one of its oldest and best-loved trees.**

Residents of Stocksbridge launched a campaign to save a historic oak in Melbourne Road after it was earmarked for a city-wide felling programme.

Sheffield Council has said the tree - one of 1,200 which will be cut down this year - has to go because it presents a risk to the public.

Now the community has demanded the tree is replaced with a like-for-like oak in the same location.

Coun Alison Brelsford, local Liberal Democrat for Stocksbridge and the Upper Don, said: "Council bosses have been clear that they are not going to budge on the felling of this tree but the least the community should expect is a like-for-like replacement.

"This tree is a spot of natural beauty for local residents and the last surviving oak tree of Oaks Avenue."

Experts have already confirmed the tree is dying, but a final assessment is due to be carried out on the tree before it is chopped down.

Coun Jack Scott, Sheffield Council's cabinet member for environment, said: "Over the last eight years the



Coun Alison Brelsford with the 270-year-old tree

health of the tree has been getting progressively worse.

"This is a beautiful tree and we understand how passionate local residents are about the oak tree and it is great to see that passion.

"However, we do have a legal responsibility to ensure the highway is safe and we therefore can't have dangerous trees on the road.

"If the experts' results once again find that the tree is diseased and needs to be

removed for safety reasons, we will be speaking to local residents about any future replanting plans and any possibilities of donating the timber to the local community."

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

+ SHOULD THE COUNCIL REPLACE TREES LIKE-FOR-LIKE?

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## Call for promises over impact of railway line

Councillors in Derbyshire are calling on the Government to ensure the proposed HS2 high-speed rail line does not damage communities.

In an official response to consultation on the proposed

line linking London with Leeds and Manchester via Sheffield and Birmingham, they are asking for the 'best deal possible' for the county.

The Birmingham to Leeds leg of the route is expected to

pass through north-east Derbyshire, broadly following the M1 corridor.

Coun Andy Botham, deputy cabinet member for transport said: "We welcome HS2 as an opportunity to boost the local economy, help businesses expand and create new jobs.

"This consultation provides us with an opportunity to highlight a number of issues that will need to be addressed if it is taken forward."

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