**Some History of TREE actions in Whalley Range**

People have moved to our area, because they like trees, some people came here with little or no choice and came to value our unusual tree filled environment and our areas history.

Residents have been involved in growing, preserving and valuing our trees for many years. Here is a recent history of some actions.

**October 1991** Manchester City Council (MCC) designated parts of Whalley Range a **Conservation Area**.

This included protection to trees and restrictions on buildings etc.

**1992**, the City Council informed residents regarding the designation of the Conservation Area, but not the implications e.g. what residents can and cannot do within the area.

**November 1993 Whalley Range Amenities Group (WRAG)** formed.

A small group of residents started meeting as a way of liaising with council officers and councillors, in relation to local issues, such as planning matters. WRAG also prioritised tree matters in the ward, including suggestions for City Council tree planting, helping residents be consulted e.g. re proposed tree felling.

WRAG worked with the planning department to draw up a flyer for residents to explain the implications of the designation of the Conservation Area, ( see draft Oct.1994, and June 1995 ) and a management plan for the Conservation area ( published 1996) .

(See attached)

WRAG was involved in discussing proposed building on the Cambrian House site, (situated on the corner of Wood Road and College Road),particularly in relation to the ‘preservation of the existing gardens and trees’.

**February 1994,** a regular WRAG newsletter was started including updates on planning applications, tree concerns etc.

**March 1995.** WRAG invites representatives of local groups to attend a meeting to establish a community Forum, to work together and liaise with relevant officers etc. in relation to issues affecting Whalley Range.

**Whalley Range Forum** takes over the activities of WRAG, and produces a bi-monthly newsletter. Sharing local news and liaising with council officers, councillors, Police etc regarding local issues.

**2003 The Forum** worked with the City Council to suggest places for tree planting in response to the Councils Tree Planting Campaign.

**2009** MCC **Whalley Range Tree Management Plan** **2009/29** launched. This laid out plans for the felling of 473 of a total of 952 street trees in the north of the ward. Making the case that they were at maturity and th would gradually be replaced.

**The Whalley Range Tree Group,** through the Forum**,** publicised the proposals, invited relevant MCC officers to meetings and held a well-attended public meeting (170 people). The case was made for the importance of trees, using ‘underplanting’ as an approach rather than remove and replace, and only removing trees that are dead diseased, dangerous.

The management plan was halted, and the residents approach accepted.

(See attached)

**2013 Regeneration of Alexandra Park** draws protest in relation to the felling of healthy trees

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-21279088>

https://savealexandraparkstrees.wordpress.com/page/2/

**Whalley Range Climate Action Group,** members worked with representatives of the Forum to continue the work of the tree group.

**November 2019** the group facilitated the **planting of 500 trees (Parkland and wildlife species)** across the ward, at a number of community events, partnering with local groups, of e.g. Alexandra Park, Manley Park, Carlton Club, W/R Cricket Club.

( see attached poster re tree planting Nov.2019)

**2022 Growing Manchester Trees** (**MCC)** (tree planting capacity study)

is published, following a survey of Manchester trees, indicating that W/R has the 4th highest canopy cover, and the highest level of street tree cover in the city.

The study stated that it

‘sees few opportunities or need for new planting in W/R’.

(<https://www.manchester.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/29046/growing_manchesters_trees.pdf>)

With the awareness that MCC would not prioritise planting in W/R the Tree Group wrote

**2024** **Whalley Range** **Tree Action Plan,** which included actions we could take locally, and with MCC officers. These suggestions used the framework of the

**MCC tree and woodland action plan,** https://www.manchester.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/25574/manchester\_tree\_action\_plan.pdf)

showing how we could

-manage sustainably

- plant appropriately

-project strongly

-involve creatively

(See attached Proposal for Whalley Range Tree Action Plan).