

The Battle to Save Sheffield's Street Trees from PFI Destruction

[as told by @TheSadSquirrel]



Lovely trees are being cut to death by remote suited folk. My heart's with those that walk the streets, and the old great Vernon Oak. [Benjamin Zephaniah, 2017]



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Notes

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Visit www.thesadsquirrel.info to view the latest version.

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Key Perpetrators



Sheffield City Council

There is no secret contractual felling target



Amey UK PLC / Ferroviol

Making Sheffield Greener

Madam, If you blow that trumpet again we will arrest you!



South Yorkshire Police

Campaigners gave us toxic tea!

Our survey says fell 1,250 trees



Acorn Environmental Management Group



John Mothersole
Chief Executive of Sheffield City Council

Streets Ahead will result in more trees

I positively agree with sending campaigners to prison



Julie Dore
Labour leader of Sheffield City Council from 2011 to 2021

Felling is a last resort!

Hollow and rotten



Bryan Lodge
Labour Councillor

Catastrophic financial consequences

Stopping felling would be morally reprehensible

Your honour, I refer to our Five Year Tree Management Strategy



Paul Billington
Director of Culture and Environment at Sheffield City Council

I'm not Ian Cider!

We could ring bark the trees!

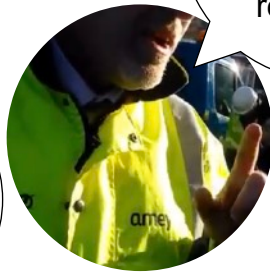


Steve Robinson
Head of Highways

We are felling 1,250 trees

We are felling 17,500 trees

There's engineering solutions in the contract



Darren Butt
Amey Streets Ahead Account Director

Let the egg collection happen today or the elm will be felled regardless



Terry Fox
Labour leader of Sheffield City Council from 2011 to 2021

We are not removing 18,000 trees

Campaigners need some perspective

Vital we don't give in to generational NIMBYism



Jack Scott
Labour Councillor

Hohoho

I didn't read the contract before signing it!



Neale Gibson
Labour Councillor

Campaigners are marked with violence and racism

We are retaining a large majority of trees...

and using engineering solutions



David Caulfield
Director of Regeneration and Development Services at Sheffield City Council

Absolutely impartial



Steve Watson
Chief Constable South Yorkshire Police

Fair and proportionate

Welcome to the Gold Command Centre

We were left in the eye of a storm



Dr Alan Billings
South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner

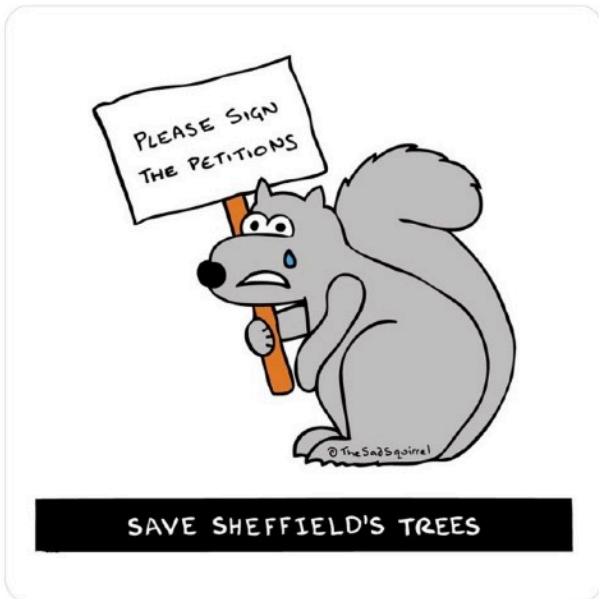
#SAVESHEFFTREES

@TheSadSquirrel

Pinned



The Sad Squirrel @TheSad... · 25/01/2017 ...
PLEASE SIGN THE PETITIONS. Help stop AMEY & #Sheffield City Council cutting down our trees. saveshefftreed.org.uk/petitions/ #SaveSheffTrees #GTOS17



Jeremy Corbyn and 2 others

103 2.3K 1.2K



elizabeth payton @eliza... · 28/01/2017 ...
Must win this for Sheffield. Trees are the lungs of city. Save for future.

3 54 83



Jack Scott @Jack_Scott · 28/01/2017 ...
yes. Vital we don't give in 2 generational NIMBYism+keep Sheffield green 4ever by thru new+replacement trees!

12 8 3



Fiona Muxlow @FionaM... · 28/01/2017 ...
Good 2 hear I'm wrong+ there's no 25 year contract+1000s trees not been felled. Phew!

1 4 6



Jack Scott @Jack_Scott · 28/01/2017 ...
hohoho.streetsahead keeps Sheffield green.yr plan means no trees OTHER than saplings in 50yrs!

2 1 2



Fiona Muxlow @FionaM... · 28/01/2017 ...
No there won't be as @Ameyplc fells trees which have 100s more years in them Nothing 2 laugh at

1 3 6



The Sad Squirrel @TheSad... · 16/10/2017 ...
PRIVATE EYE "Vernon the healthy 150 year old oak being felled with 18,000 other trees 'damaging' roads & paths." #Sheffield #SaveSheffTrees



Private Eye Magazine and 8 others

50 1.1K 797

The Battle to Save Sheffield's Street Trees from PFI Destruction [as told by The Sad Squirrel]

Welcome to Sheffield... The Greenest City in Europe

Sheffield has around 4.5 million trees, around eight for every resident and is the only major city in the UK to contain a national park within its city boundary. One third of Sheffield, and a vast number of its trees lie within the Peak District.

With more ancient woodland than any other industrial city in Western Europe, 80 of Sheffield's 180 woodlands have been continuously covered by trees since at least 1600 and are classified as ancient.

Sheffield's urban areas are impressively green compared to other cities, with tree coverage in some areas rising to 21.6%. That's more than double the national average of 10%.

With a rich collection of 250 public parks and over 36,000 street trees, much of Sheffield's urban tree stock was planted by forward thinking Victorian industrialists, philanthropists and post enclosure urban architects.

Sheffield's proud claim to be an 'outdoor city' and the 'greenest city in Europe' was seemingly well-founded.

Streets Ahead - The Shady £2.2 Billion 25-Year PFI Highways Contract

Sheffield's Labour-run council began felling street trees in 2012 under a shady £2.2 Billion, 25-year Private Finance Initiative [PFI] Highways contract with Amey called 'Streets Ahead'.

The basics of the Amey PFI deal were worked out and negotiated when the Liberal Democrats had control over Sheffield City Council and former Hallam MP Nick Clegg was Deputy Prime Minister. It was however Sheffield's Labour Council who rubber stamped the deal.

The contract, public versions of which were heavily redacted, aimed to upgrade Sheffield's roads, pavements, streetlights and bridges... and repair it's long standing 'pothole city' reputation.

Initially, Sheffield City Council and Amey, bankrolled by their Carillion led PFI consortium, began removing street trees marked as 'dangerous'.

As the relentless buzz of chainsaws continued, it soon became apparent to concerned local residents that this PFI contract also included the indiscriminate and industrial scale removal the city's healthy and much loved street trees.

The needless felling of iconic street trees such as the Melbourne Rd Oak in 2014, one of Sheffield's oldest oak trees at 450 years old, laid bare the lack of tree strategy within the

H @simmplyhev · 11/05/2017
 I ❤️ where I live. Please don't cut down our beautiful trees @SheffCouncil #lungsofthecity #SaveSheffTrees



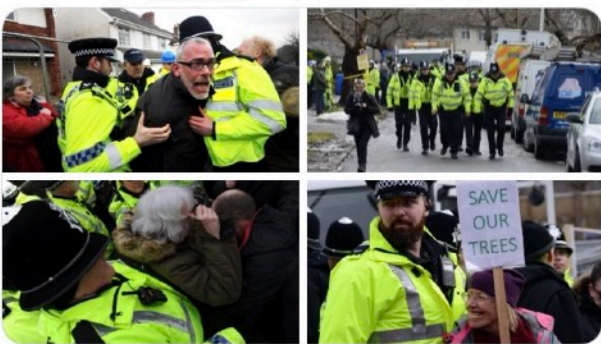
22 420 472

caroline gray @carolinegray... · 16/03/2018
 This photo sums up the madness in Sheffield. All those police to allow a private contractor to cut down 1 tree!! Ridiculous waste of resources #SaveSheffTrees



84 792 849

James Mitchinson @JayMit... · 05/03/2018
 Trees Battle - enough is enough: This is what happens to you in #Sheffield if you dare to challenge its city council. Police force descends in large numbers and ugly scenes ensue. This breakdown in communication is heaping shame on Yorkshire. yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/sheffield...



Helen Pidd and 6 others
 96 783 599

The Sad Squirrel @TheSadS... · 27/04/2018
 "No-one should be under any illusion - this is the worst industrial-scale felling of good quality urban trees that I have ever seen anywhere in the world." Chris Packham, Jeremy Barrell & Philip van Wassenauer in The Ecologist #SaveSheffTrees #Sheffield theecologist.org/2018/apr/27/ch...

14 421 394

contract.

The planned felling of other notable and iconic street trees such as - the disease resistant Chelsea Road elm, home to a colony of rare White-letter Hairstreak Butterfly; Western Road WWI memorial trees; the highly contested lime trees of Rustlings Road; the community funded and charitable cherry trees of Abbeydale Park Rise; a former boundary tree called Vernon Oak; Rivelin Valley Road's lime tree avenue; the Mappin Trees of Thompson Road and whole avenues of trees within the Nether Edge Conservation Area - demonstrated a complete lack of respect for Sheffield's environment, ecology, heritage and community.

Of the 36,000 street trees in Sheffield, concerned residents soon realised that many, if not most of the 25,000+ mature healthy street trees were likely to be felled under the Streets Ahead contract for their association with damage to the built urban infrastructure [particularly footways and carriageway edging]. [Walk on the Wild Side]

Residents further suspected that the publicly redacted and highly secretive £2.2 Billion Streets Ahead contract, signed by Amey, The Department for Transport and Sheffield City Council, contained a hidden felling target.

With ranks of riot gear clad South Yorkshire Police marching on stump lined streets, over 40 residents arrested, some under Trade Union Law and one for blowing a toy trumpet; specialist protestor removal units dragging tree campaigners from felling zones; mobile CCTV units gathering intelligence to support council led prosecutions; high court injunctions covering 'Persons Unknown'; courtroom lies; fake contract documents; heavy handed legal threats; attempts to imprison residents; toxic tea investigations; platoons of PFI security patrolling normally peaceful residential streets; hordes of HERAS fencing barricading threatened trees; armies of Amey's arbs drafted in from all over the UK to carry out pre-dawn chopping raids on healthy street trees... the streets of Sheffield became an environmental battleground.

The resulting Sheffield tree campaign is considered by many to be one of the most significant displays of civil disobedience in the UK since the Kinder Scout Mass Trespass of 1932 and one of the most successful environmental campaigns of all time - thanks to both street protests and the use of Freedom of Information [FOI] requests.

A cautionary tale of corporate power, contractual secrecy, courtroom lies, institutional deceit, rotten politics, excessive policing, rampaging private security, toxic tea and industrial scale environmental vandalism...

This is the story of 'The Battle to Save Sheffield's Street Trees from PFI Destruction [as told by The Sad Squirrel]'.
[Click here to find out more about the Streets Ahead Contract.](#)

Tom Ingall @TomIngall · 15/09/2015

A new 'base camp' for protestors who are fighting to retain trees on Rustlings Road in #Sheffield 6.30 @BBCLookNorth

2 2

Vernon Oak @SAVEDOR... · 18/04/2016

I was a boundary tree in a field, then houses and road got built around but I still remind people of that field...

26 304 602

The Sad Squirrel @TheSad... · 09/04/2017

How can these majestic healthy blossom & bee filled street trees be due for the chop? #Sheffield #Trees #THUNDERCLAP thndr.me/8ZemaU

Greenpeace UK and 6 others

13 309 193

Bianca Jagger Nicara... · 03/12/2017

I don't live in Sheffield, but I support all #TreeActivists and their objectives. I believe trees are critical to our survival. I admire your courageous, persistent, peaceful and creative campaign to save trees. Don't give up! Keep holding the gov accountable. I salute you ❤️🌳

5 87 127

Sheffield Tree Campaign Takes Root

After the signing of the 'Streets Ahead' PFI contract in 2012, any legacy council agreements with communities concerning the care of their street trees were either lost or consigned to the pre-PFI waste pile.

The first street tree removals were carried out in 2012 with no public consultation. By 2015, with hundreds of healthy street trees felled and thousands more marked for the PFI chop, Sheffield residents started to mobilise.

The first form of active resistance took place on Wayland Road in June 2015, with residents blocking the street to stop the felling of ten lime trees. Sheffield City Council stated one tree was diseased, another structurally unstable and the rest were damaging the pavement or infrastructure.

The formation of campaign group Save Our Rustlings Trees [SORT] by Deepa Shetty, Louise Wilcockson and David Long in June 2015, followed by the overarching Sheffield Tree Action Group [STAG] in August 2015, helped focus and expand campaign efforts.

In July 2015, SORT sent a 32 page letter to Cllr Terry Fox, Sheffield City Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport. The letter, advocating for all of Sheffield's street trees, called for Sheffield City Council to implement a comprehensive Tree Strategy as Council policy.

Cllr Terry Fox responded, saying a Tree Strategy would be ready by March 2016.

The letter was then sent to all councillors before the SORT petition was presented to Full Council in July 2015. The petition, signed by over 9000 people called for Sheffield City Council and Amey to 'save the 12 trees on Rustlings Road, Sheffield'.

In September 2015, a new base camp was set up in neighbouring Endcliffe Park, resulting in a month long protest camp led by Calvin Payne, Helen McIlroy and committed SORT campaigners.

STAG, formed by disgruntled Sheffield resident Dave Dillner, was a natural evolution of his "Save the Heeley Trees, Say NO to the Bus lane" campaign group. Early in 2015, the group had successfully blocked an ill-planned bus lane, saving 189 roadside trees surrounding Sheffield's Heeley City Farm.

Under the banner of STAG, local campaign groups formed in Burngreave & Pitsmoor, Crookes, Western Road & Walkley, Dore, Topley & Bradway, Ecclesall Road, Firth Park, Gleadless Valley, Greenhill, Heeley, Millhouses, Nether Edge, Norfolk Park, Rivelin Valley, Hillsborough and Wadsley.

To raise awareness and provoke public debate, resident led campaign groups launched petitions and adorned thousands of threatened trees with yellow ribbons and red hearts.

Campaign groups also began exploring the use of legal means and non-violent direct action to stop the PFI felling.



As communities across Sheffield returned home to stump-lined streets, members of the public, ordinarily passive folk, became activated. Individuals, of all ages, backgrounds and postcode areas, including those with no prior experience in activism, become deeply involved, many putting themselves in harm's way and risking arrest.

For residents who complained the street trees dropped leaves, sapped parked cars or harboured pooping birds, as Sheffield artist Pete McKee proclaimed on twitter... "[the trees] are our longest living residents and deserve better." Many a wise soul also pointed out, if you don't like trees, don't buy a house on a tree lined street.

For residents that suggested Sheffield's mature street trees were too expensive to maintain, Steve Robinson, Sheffield City Council's Head of Highway Maintenance and Streets Ahead spin doctor, reminded residents in September 2015 that "the engineering and tree-based solutions come at no extra cost to the Council".

Despite Sheffield City Council's repeated claims that the felling of street trees was a "last resort" and "engineering solutions" were available, a FOI request in late 2015 forced the Information Commissioner and Council CEO John Mothersole to confirm that:

'no alternative highway engineering specifications have been commissioned or drafted for consideration as an alternative to felling since the start of the contract'.

[Click here to find out more about the Sheffield Tree Campaign.](#)

The Independent Tree Panel [ITP]

Following a deluge of complaints from angry residents, increasing levels of direct action and growing scrutiny over the felling of healthy street trees, Sheffield City Council launched the Independent Tree Panel Household Survey in November 2015.

The survey process was highly flawed with only residents on affected streets receiving one vote per household. Surveys containing ambiguous wording were hand delivered in plain brown envelopes. Felling plans could only be viewed online by typing in a detailed web address and unique code.

Residents were given just two weeks to complete the survey and those without internet access had to request and return a paper copy within the council's rushed timeframe.

Emeritus Professor Greg Brooks, of The University of Sheffield, criticised the validity of the survey describing it as unrepresentative and undemocratic. Academic commentators further labelled the Household Survey as 'divisive' and a 'threat to the strong community bonds of the city'.

Where over half the surveyed residents had voted to save the threatened trees on their road, the trees were then referred to the Independent Tree Panel.



Vernon Oak and Kenwood Hall
36 replies, 299 retweets, 366 likes



15 replies, 387 retweets, 227 likes



Chris Packham
9 replies, 143 retweets, 228 likes

The Yorkshire Post @yorkshi... · 13/07/2017 ...
Via @jameswhitworth commenting on Sheffield City Council's hell-bent crusade to destroy historic street trees. 🌳🔪🔥🌳 @nick_clegg



The Sad Squirrel and 6 others

3 141 133

The Star, Sheffield @Sheffie... · 08/12/2016 ...
Secret plan to remove Rustlings Road trees made by Sheffield Council and police one month before raid...
trib.al/8iBwmws



11 28 12

Andy Kershaw Media @a... · 13/01/2017 ...
BREAKING Three people arrested for obstructing workers removing trees on Sheffield's Rustlings Road have been charged under S241 TULRA 1992



10 51 12

The Sad Squirrel @TheSadS... · 23/02/2017 ...
I DON'T AGREE WITH THE TRADE UNION LAW says Cllr Dore. WHO DOES? @SheffCouncil @syptweet @Ameyplc @Labour #SaveSheffTrees #SheffieldTreeHour



20 15

Formed to give the illusion of proper arboreal and environmental process, in cases where the Independent Tree Panel recommended specific street trees should be retained, recommendations were often ignored. In 75% of cases the trees were felled regardless.

In response to Sheffield City Council's flawed and divisive Independent Tree Panel Household Survey, STAG volunteers carried out their own door-to-door surveys, finding residents overwhelmingly opposed the felling of their street trees. A high proportion of residents were unaware of the Independent Tree Panel survey.

[Click here to find out more about the Independent Tree Panel.](#)

The 6D's and The Five Year Tree Management Strategy

A clause within the Streets Ahead contract stipulated Amey must produce a 'Five Year Tree Management Strategy' and submit it to Sheffield City Council each year.

By the autumn of 2015, following 3 years of felling, Sheffield City Council were under intense public and political pressure to release the document.

The first version of this strategy document was created in 2012 and filed alongside the Streets Ahead contract behind the multi billion pound veil of PFI secrecy.

Initially refusing to release the document, Sheffield City Council eventually published a 'Five Year Tree Management Strategy' document in February 2016, dated January 2016.

The strategy document included information on environmental stewardship and a section listing engineering solutions that it said would be considered as alternatives to felling street trees.

The document also outlined their 6Ds approach, whereby trees categorised by Amey and Sheffield City Council as dangerous, dead, diseased, dying, damaging or discriminatory [6Ds] could be felled.

Campaign response to the strategy document was sceptical, with many campaigners pointing out that the strategies within the document did not align with felling actions on the ground or represent industry standard practice.

[Click here to find out more about the 6D's and The Five Year Tree Management Strategy.](#)

2016 Judicial Review - David Dillner vs Sheffield City Council and Amey

Exerting legal pressure, in February 2016 Dave Dillner, founder of STAG, successfully applied for a temporary injunction against tree work and a judicial review of the PFI felling.

Following a short pause, in March 2016, a court hearing found in favour of the council and the injunction was lifted, allowing street tree works to continue and the mass felling of Sheffield's

BBC Sheffield @BBCSheffi... · 17/11/2016
Residents say they are "disgusted" at "stealth tactics" being used to fell trees on Rustlings Road #Sheffield (picture via @1875bluesHK)



6 26 9

Mick Lunney @micklunney · 17/11/2016
Tears and anger over tree felling in Sheffield which began in the small hours on Rustlings Road:



32 244 108

Andy Kershaw Media · 17/11/2016
"Someone has lost the plot, what system knocks people up at 0300 am to chop down trees and ends up arresting pensioners" Nick Clegg MP



8 115 103

The Sad Squirrel @TheSadSq... · 17/11/2017
RUSTLINGS ROAD DAWN TREE RAID.. The day democracy died and #Sheffield became a PFI Police State. #SaveSheffTrees



12 216 125

street trees to resume.

Facing growing public opposition and increasing incidents of non-violent direct action, in June 2016, Amey executives wrote to the council proposing alternative engineering solutions to avoid the felling of highly contested trees.

Refusing Amey's offer, Sheffield City Council chose to double down on the campaign and their hard-line response was to prove extreme.

[Click here to find out more about the 2016 Judicial Review.](#)

South Yorkshire Police - Operation Testate

In June 2016, at the request of Sheffield City Council and Amey, South Yorkshire Police were deployed to their first Sheffield street tree protest. Responding to reports of residents on Bannerdale Road blocking the removal of ten cherry trees, police officers attended for five hours, no arrests were made and no trees were felled.

In October 2016, South Yorkshire Police launched their first tree related operation - Operation Testate. The inclusion of Amey and Sheffield City Council members in the Operation Testate Gold Command Centre raised serious data handling concerns and claims that independent policing was being subverted by political and corporate forces.

In November 2016, South Yorkshire Police made their first tree related arrests during a peaceful protest to protect a tree on Marden Road. Two residents were arrested under Section 241 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act [1992], designed to deal with 'Flying Pickets'.

[Click here to find out more about Operation Testate.](#)

Rustlings Road Pre-Dawn Tree Raid

Upping the arboreal ante to maximum, the pre-dawn felling raid on Rustlings Road in November 2016 had a profound impact on the Sheffield tree campaign.

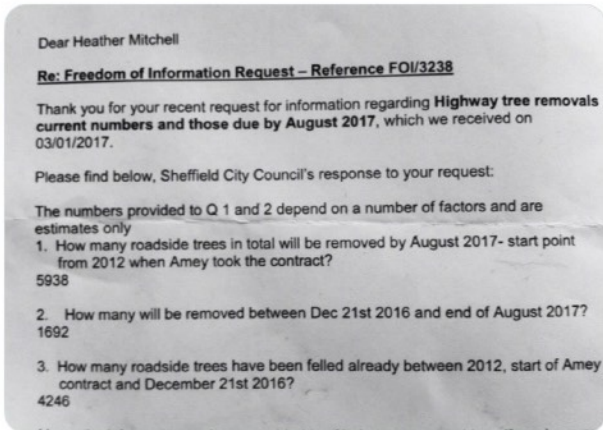
Described by then Sheffield Hallam MP Nick Clegg as 'like something out of Putin's Russia', Rustlings Road cruelly demonstrated the underhand and draconian methods Sheffield City Council, Amey and South Yorkshire Police would stoop to in attempts to force through their PFI felling.

Following SORT's lengthy and highly spirited community campaign to save their trees, Sheffield City Council, Amey and South Yorkshire Police descended on Rustlings Road at 2am on 17 November 2016.

Aiding and abetting the corporate slaughter of healthy mature street trees, South Yorkshire Police knocked on sleeping residents doors and ordered the removal of parked cars.

As dazed residents remonstrated with police officers, Amey's arbs climbed into the trees under the cover of darkness. Using

GT 🌱🌱🌱 @Graham21 · 07/02/2017 ...
How many trees are @SheffCouncil planning to let @Ameyplc fell in order to reduce the costs of the resurfacing work? This many:



Save GV Trees and 5 others

🗨️ 24 🔄 307 ❤️ 127 📄 📌 📤

Jack Scott @Jack_Scott · 14/01/2018 ...
Replying to @polly_morley @SheffCouncil and 2 others

Where did you get this 18k figure from? it is 5.5k ... Need a discussion based on facts and evidence. no suggestion whatsoever that 18k trees replaced. AND we've planted 65,000 new trees in 14 new woodlands.

🗨️ 9 🔄 7 ❤️ 2 📄 📌 📤

Polly Morley @polly_mor... · 14/01/2018 ...
Replying to @Jack_Scott @SheffCouncil and 2 others

R u saying Steve Robinson made this statement up 4 this industry article promoting the virtues of the forthcoming Streets Ahead Programme? #EcoVandalism #SaveSheffTrees



🗨️ 1 🔄 3 ❤️ 6 📄 📌 📤

The Sad Squirrel @TheS... · 14/01/2018 ...
Replying to @polly_morley @Jack_Scott and 3 others

Upto half mentioned here.. <https://t.co/m3suOX4Avy>



🗨️ 🔄 1 ❤️ 3 📄 📌 📤

handsaws, arbs set about hacking away side branches, leaving ten foot stumps lining the road as totems of their PFI power.

Three startled residents, including Jenny - a retired professor and Freda - a retired teacher, both in their 70's, were arrested under section 241 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations [Consolidation] Act 1992 for entering a restricted work zone.

In contravention of their own contractual procedures, Sheffield City Council published their intent to fell trees on Rustlings Road at 4:25:56 AM on 17 November 2016... two and a half hours after felling operations had commenced.

As a cold November dawn broke over Rustlings Road, shocked and emotional residents gathered to survey the environmental destruction that had taken place on their doorsteps.

Taking the remaining council officials, police officers and Amey arbs to task, residents furious shouts of 'are you proud of your city' were captured by hastily dispatched news teams.

Behind the pre dawn tree felling raid on Rustlings Road was a hardheaded calculation. A Sheffield City Council memo from the time, referenced in a Guardian newspaper article, stated 'removing the trees [on Rustlings Road] will remove a symbol of the tree campaign.'

Instead of removing a symbol of the tree campaign, Rustlings Road hit the national news, thrusting Sheffield City Council's PFI fuelled environmental vandalism and South Yorkshire Police's excessive level of policing into the media spotlight and public consciousness.

[Click here to find out more about the Rustlings Road Pre-Dawn Tree Raid.](#)

How Many Trees?

From the outset of the Streets Ahead contract, with Julie Dore at the steering wheel, Sheffield City Council's crackpot team of councillors and complicit council officers began spinning a flappy web of institutional obfuscation, misrepresentation and contractual deceit.

Contradictory and constantly shifting statements from council officials and Amey representatives regarding the highly secretive £2.2 Billion Streets Ahead contract and the number of street trees to be felled caused deep rooted concern and confusion amongst Sheffield residents.

In August 2012, following the signing of the contract, Streets Ahead stated 1250 to 2000 trees should be replaced over the initial 5-year Core Investment Period of the Streets Ahead contract [5 year tree strategy].

Acorn Environmental Management Group [AEMG], sub-contracted by Amey to re-survey Sheffield's highway trees, stated that around 1,000 dead, dying, diseased and dangerous street trees would be felled along with 6,300 other pruning and maintenance jobs.

Chris Burn @ChrisBurn_Post · 11/02/2019 ...
 Another twist in the Sheffield trees saga: A year-long official investigation into the circumstances around a planned tree felling has uncovered a deliberate attempt to mislead residents about the findings of an expert report. yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/sheffield...
 23 161 157

James Mitchinson @JayMitc... · 10/07/2017 ...
 Welcome to Sheffield, where you'll be ruled with iron fists. One clutching YOUR money the other wielding a huge axe! yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/opinion/d...



7 127 94

Jeremy Barrell @Jere... · 21/06/2023
 The utter arrogance of some local politicians is impossible to fathom until it happens to you! I saw what Sheffield City Council did to perfectly healthy trees and the lies that were promoted to support it. Ordinary people can win, don't ever give up.
msn.com/en-gb/news/ukn...
 26 176 444 20K

Alison Teal @aliso... · 11/03/2023 ...
 On 11/08/17 @SheffLabour Cllrs tasked a crew to hastily fell a healthy apple tree close to where I lived just to show they could. We can't trust Cllrs who abuse their power and public £ to spite political opponents. #SorryNotSorry isn't good enough. They must resign @SheffCouncil



Sheffield Green Party and 9 others
 25 124 306 22K

Sheffield City Council's Head of Highway Maintenance, Steve 'Spin Doctor' Robinson, was quoted in a Sheffield Star article, "Overall there are 36,000 highway trees and there are 1,250 across the city which we are taking out and replacing."

Counter spinning, Steve Robinson went on to contradict himself in a Transport Professional article, stating that "half of the city's 36,000 highway trees would be replaced over the course of the 25-year PFI contract."

Caught in a self-induced whirlwind of public confusion and contractual scrutiny, Highway officials attempted to set the record straight. In a 2013 Sheffield Star article, Highway Officials reassured residents that only "1,250 trees across the city would be felled and replaced, with more than a hundred street trees being considered for felling if they were considered to be damaging road surfaces or causing a hazard."

Despite public reassurances, Sheffield City Council went on to provide further contradictory contractual statements. During a fractious full Council meeting in July 2015, the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr. Leigh Bramall, referred to an arboreal survey by Elliott Consultancy.

"Just before Streets Ahead, we had an independent survey done assessing all the trees across Sheffield, and it found that 70% were nearing the end of their life and 10,000 needed urgent attention, the contract says up to 50% of trees can be removed, erm, and actually that's 18,000."

Carried out in 2007 and hidden from public eyes until 2016, The Elliott report, found that 74% of Sheffield's 35,000 trees were mature or over mature and 25,000 of those trees were healthy and did not require immediate work. The report by Elliot Consultancy recommended 1000 of Sheffield's street trees should be replaced.

Sheffield City Council misrepresenting the Elliot report in a full council meeting added to the already putrid air of conspiracy surrounding secret contractual felling targets.

In further attempts to douse public confusion and increasing anger on the streets, Steve 'PFI Spin Doctor' Robinson hit back with more council press releases, stating that "no healthy trees will be removed unless absolutely necessary, in cases where roots are damaging pavements, workers will look at removing the offending root, or alternatives such as raising the pavement surface."

Senior Council Officer Paul Billington, Strategic Lead for Highways Maintenance and responsible for overseeing Sheffield's tree felling program also defensively chipped in saying "nobody on the Council has a penchant for felling trees – the goal is always retention of trees."

Despite the confusion around how many trees were being felled over the course of the contract, it was clear Sheffield City Council had a penchant for keeping contract details secret and were consistent in their denials surrounding contractual felling targets.

[Click here to find out more about Contractual Obfuscation.](#)



The Sad Squirrel @TheSad... · 28/11/2017
 EVERY TREE CHOPPED IS A HABITAT LOST
[#SaveSheffTrees](#) [#Sheffield](#)
[#NationalTreeWeek](#)



24 688 583



Toby Ward @TobyWardWT · 01/11/2017
 Truly terrible things happening in [#Sheffield](#).
 What isn't being mentioned enough is the huge
 loss of habitat & biosphere. [#SaveSheffTrees](#)

SheffTreeSteel @SheffTr... · 01/11/2017
 Replying to @AcornGroupLtd
 And then it was gone, Hollythorpe Rd S8,
 another healthy mature eco treasure felled
 4 profit, unprecedented canopy loss
[#saveshefftrees](#)



13 160 130



Michael J Kean... · 02/11/2017
 Replying to @salthe poet @SheffCouncil and
[@sccstreetsahead](#)
 Here's a close up of the tree trunk and kerb.
 Which of the 6Ds applied here? Dubious, dodgy
 daft etc? [#SaveSheffTrees](#)



2 4 5

Strong Arm Politics

Under the watchful eye of Council CEO John Mothersole, Council leaders Julie Dore, Bryan Lodge, Terry Fox and their despotic gaggle of cabinet and council members Jack Scott, Julie Dunn, Olivia Blake, Lewis Dagnall, Neale Gibson - Sheffield's Labour council utilised the strong-arm leader model to concentrate executive decision-making power in the hands of a small, select group of councillors, suppress debate and silence political opposition within the council chamber.

In 2016, Labour Councillor Nasima Akther was suspended for abstaining on a tree related vote and failing to vote along Labour party lines. Subverting democracy further, prospective Labour candidates for the 2018 Sheffield City Council elections had to support the PFI tree felling or they could not stand.

In April 2017, Sheffield opposition councillors walked out of a full council meeting in protest over the threatened removal of Green Party Cllr Teal from the council chamber. Teal had accused the sitting Cabinet Member for the Environment, Bryan Lodge, of misleading the council.

Throughout the course of the campaign, Sheffield Green Party and Cllr Teal remained vocal opponents of the PFI felling. Teal was later arrested during protests on Chippinghouse Road in Nether Edge. Teal was also served injunction papers and later faced a committal hearing for breach of injunction.

In August 2017, Teal was the victim of the Myrtle Road revenge felling which resulted in a healthy apple tree on her road being recklessly felled with one cut to the trunk into a neighbour's front garden.

[Click here to find out more about Strong Arm Politics](#)

Every Tree Chopped is a Habitat Lost

By 2017, despite high pressure campaign resistance and council reassurances, over 5000 mature healthy street trees, categorised by Amey and Sheffield City Council as dangerous, dead, diseased, dying, damaging or discriminatory [6Ds] had fallen to the unrelenting PFI chainsaw with no form of environmental impact assessment.

Oaks, Limes, Ash, Elm, Willow, Hawthorne, Birch and Beech... 'Yeah the trees, those useless trees. Produce the air that I'm breathing' [Jarvis Cocker, Trees, 2001]

Ignored by some, revered by others, street trees enrich and benefit all urban lives. Absorbing carbon, producing oxygen, lowering water tables, preventing soil erosion and offering shade. Street trees provide a dutiful array of environmental services in the ever increasing urban sprawl of humanity.

Street trees also offer nesting sites for birds and roosts for owls and bats. Purveyors of nectar to the bees, fruit to the birds and nuts to the squirrels. Each tree is a mini ecosystem, hosting and supporting a myriad of life including moths, butterflies, beetles, ants and burrowing insects. Every tree chopped is a



David J Elliott @David_J_E... · 11/07/2017

We funded a big chunk of these. Sadly we can't support any more woodland projects until the unnecessary felling of healthy street trees ends

Streets Ahead @sccstree... · 11/07/2017

Over 70,000 trees have been planted across #Sheffield in the last 3 years, including those planted as part of the Streets Ahead contract



2 89 59



Sarah D @ra... · 15/10/2017

And Vernon, the magnificent 150 yr old oak tree in Dore. We #StandwithVernon & look at today's vigil and art celebration #SaveSheffTrees



4 137 298



The Star, Sheffield @Sh... · 16/10/2017

Campaigner climbs 150-year-old Sheffield oak tree to save it from the chop #StarLive trib.al/87wn1Sm #StarLive



7 81 210



Sheffield Spark @Sheffi... · 16/10/2017

Campaigner who tied himself to the tree says he will stay up there "all week, if necessary" #StandWithVernon @SAVEDORETREES #Sheffield



5 75 126

habitat lost.

Despite Steve 'Spin Doctor' Robinson and Sheffield City Council's claims the felled timber and tree trunks would be made available for "craftsmen, schools, or people working on projects with young people", the felled trees, along with their slow moving inhabitants were routinely being chipped on site or loaded onto wagons, rumoured to be destined for energy capture facilities.

Amidst cries of 'where is the wood going?', Sheffield City Council virtue gifted a small amount of wood chipping to Heeley City Farm, an urban farm providing alternative education placements for Sheffield Children.

Located next to the the Streets Ahead Olive Grove Road Depot, Sheffield City Council couldn't have found a more convenient beneficiary. Sharing the gifting of the wood chipping with local news outlets, this was a classic example of cheap political spin and deflection.

At the start of the contract Sheffield City Council proudly announced "we will be planting replacements straight away or in the next planting season, which runs from November to March. New trees will come from a list of around thirty species. Species being planted fell into three categories: ornamental – cherry; native – oak, pine, birch and maple; exotic - cedar, redwood, Persian ironwood and tulip".

In reality, bio depleted gaps in the Sheffield's street scene, where majestic mature and healthy trees once stood, were either being left empty or being cheaply populated with low-cost, disease and vandalism prone, non-native, lollypop saplings carrying signs asking residents to 'please water me'.

Paul Barton, a top UK tree expert and former tree surveyor in Sheffield in 2012, wrote an article in the Arboricultural Association's ARB Magazine explaining "The Sheffield Streets Ahead contract is providing a fascinating but depressing case study on how not to do urban forestry."

The 5000+ healthy trees felled throughout 2012-2017, during the initial 5-year Core Investment Period of the Streets Ahead contract, were not dead, diseased or dying but valuable street tree assets.

Jeremy Barrell, a renowned independent tree consultant, often employed by councils to assess street trees, calculated the Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees [CAVAT] for the 5000+ felled trees at a staggering £66 million.

To the animals that called them home and residents who admired and benefitted from their arboreal presence, each and every tree was priceless.

A deep critic of Sheffield City Council's PFI felling, in August 2017, David J Elliot, Chief Executive of Trees for Cities, put a stop on tree planting efforts in Sheffield, saying '[Trees for Cities] can't support any more woodland projects until the unnecessary felling of healthy street trees ends'.

[Click here to find out more about the value of Street Trees.](#)

The Sad Squirrel @TheS... · 16/10/2017

Vernon Oak. Healthy. Historic.
Being felled this week for PFI profit. Poem by Benjamin Zephaniah [#SaveSheffTrees](#) [#StandwithVernon](#) [#Sheffield](#)

LOVELY TREES ARE BEING CUT TO DEATH BY REMOTE SUITED FOLK. MY HEART'S WITH THOSE THAT WALK THE STREETS, AND THE OLD GREAT VERNON OAK. (BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH)

VERNON OAK
[#SAVESHEFFTREES](#)

Vernon Oak and 9 others

3 190 138

GT @Graham21 · 16/07/2017

Great support for one of Sheffield's last mature Elms. @SheffCouncil want to cut it down. We say 'No'. [#SaveSheffTrees](#)

Vernon Oak and 8 others

6 162 185

Joe @JoeOplar · 12/02/2018

Darren Butt saying if protesters don't let pruning and egg collection happen today the tree will be felled regardless, Chelsea Rd Elm [#SaveSheffTrees](#) @WildlifeTrusts

1 9 7

Paul Selby @PaulSelby18 · 14/02/2019

Today the 120year old DED resistant Chelsea Road elm tree has finally been saved. I must have spent 500+ hours on various activities to save it, turning it from "just another street tree" to the 3rd most famous elm in the UK. But I couldn't have achieved it without so many others

137 551 2.5K

Great Trees of Sheffield

Following the Core Investment Period of the Streets Ahead contract, Sheffield's most notable and iconic street trees remained on the PFI felling list. Endowed with an intrinsic cultural and environmental value, local residents weren't going to let their much loved street trees be subject to PFI destruction without a fight.

The Great Trees of Sheffield contest, created by Rob 'Tree Hunter' McBride, raised vital awareness for Sheffield's rich street tree heritage. The trees that featured became fiercely contested focal points for the authorities and powerful unifying beacons for the Sheffield tree campaign.

Vernon Oak

Vernon Oak, a 200 year old boundary tree that once stood in a field, was backed by a formidable and loyal group of residents led by Margaret Peart. With a dedicated twitter account and hashtag - [#StandWithVernon](#), Vernon Oak attracted many admirers.

Ahead of vigils, demonstrations and celebrations, Vernon's mighty trunk would be adorned with gifted red hearts, odes and artworks. The recital of poems and blessings to nature and the environment were a regular feature of the spirited vigils being held under Sheffield's threatened street trees.

Championed in a social media video by celebrity and namesake Vernon Kay, Vernon Oak was also the subject of a poem by the late great truth speaker Benjamin Zephaniah.

Expressing the divide between authorities and local community, Zephaniah observed:

'Lovely trees are being cut to death by remote suited folk. My heart's with those that walk the streets, and the old great Vernon Oak.'

In a fitting finale to Vernon's tale, this much revered veteran oak was saved from the PFI axe by a lone campaigner who climbed into Vernon's bough to prevent his felling.

Spark Media reported 'The campaigner who tied himself to the tree says he will stay up there "all week, if necessary" [#StandWithVernon](#)'.

Chelsea Road Elm

One of the most famous elm trees in the UK, estimated to be around 130 years old, the Chelsea Road elm tree is of significant national and ecological importance.

With its colony of rare white-letter hairstreak butterflies and resilience to Dutch elm disease, the Chelsea Road elm, like the majority of Sheffield street trees, was scheduled to be felled for its damage to the surrounding pavement and road.

Robert Macfarlane @Ro... · 13/11/2018
 I wrote a poem for the Sheffield Tree Protestors called "Heartwood", in defence of trees facing unjust felling anywhere in the world. The artist Nick Hayes made a broadsheet poster of it. Inexplicably, two nights ago huge versions of Heartwood began to appear around Sheffield...



Chris Packham and 2 others

115 2K 4.8K

GT @Graham21 · 25/05/2017
 Absolutely shocking: Abbeydale Park Rise 19 trees face imminent felling despite local opposition. #SaveSheffTrees #SheffChainsawMassacre



Susan Unwin and 8 others

23 243 123

Andy Kershaw Media @a... · 21/11/2017
 88 yr old Betty Simms helped get these trees planted in Abbeydale Park Rise and was first resident to decorate them with Xmas lights. Today they faced the chainsaw @BBCSheffield



46 331 209

The Sad Squirrel @TheSadS... · 03/07/2017
 THIS IS MADNESS! Rivelin's Lime Avenue. Second longest in the UK. A fated jewel in #Sheffield's arboreal crown. FELLING NOW #Scandal #SaveSheffTrees



Chris Packham and 8 others

94 1.2K 674

One of less than a thousand old elm trees that remain in the whole of the UK outside of the cordon sanitaire zones in Brighton and Edinburgh, Sheffield City Council said it would cost £50,000 to do the necessary pavement work to retain this tree. In contrast, an independent highway engineer said remedial works would cost just £3,500 - a fraction of the highly inflated PFI cost.

Championed by Paul Selby and local campaigners, the Chelsea Road elm attracted critical support from environmentalists, ecologists and media organisations.

In 2016 the Chelsea Road elm secured second place in the Woodland Trust Tree of the Year competition resulting in a celebratory media event featuring an open top, banner draped, double decker bus.

In 2018, at an attempted pre fell prune, Darren Butt [Account Director for Amey] was caught on camera saying to campaigners - "Let the pruning and [the white-letter hairstreak butterfly] egg collection happen today or the tree will be felled regardless."

The Chelsea Road elm, as with all Sheffield's street trees, was not subject to an environmental assessment. The proposed felling of Chelsea Road Elm and planned removal of its butterfly colony demonstrated a complete dereliction of environmental and ecological duty.

Inspired by the Sheffield tree campaign and plight of the Chelsea Road elm, Robert Macfarlane penned 'Heartwood' a poem for all threatened trees throughout the world.

Heartwood was etched into protective wooden charms designed by Jackie Morris and hung from the branches of the Chelsea Road elm and other threatened trees. Illuminated, Heartwood also appeared on backlit billboards straddling Sheffield's urban highways. [See Heartwood TiCL Trail]

Following a long hard fought battle and reams of bad PR for Sheffield Council - local campaigners, Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust and The Woodland Trust successfully halted Sheffield City Council and Amey's outrageous plan to fell the Chelsea Road elm and relocate the butterflies.

Cherry Blossom Trees of Abbeydale Park Rise

Originally paid for by residents of the street in the 1970's, the cherry blossom trees of Abbeydale Park Rise became a beloved part of the local Christmas tradition. Each year residents would decorate the trees with festive lights to attract visitors and raise donations for the local St Lukes Hospice.

In 2016, Sheffield City Council's 'Independent' Tree Panel advised the removal of 19 trees on the street. In a blitzkrieg style operation in November 2017, several of the trees were felled, one partially, leaving branches, Christmas lights and crushed community spirit strewn across the pavement.

Police arrested a 38-year-old man on suspicion of assault and reported numerous people for summons.

Carl Thompson @carl_cro... · 19/12/2017 ...
 Trees bought and planted in 1920 by family of young men who fell and did not return from WW1 are due to be killed by @SheffCouncil @Ameypc & @AcornGroupLtd
 The cost to save them is free in the contract but @Ameypc refuse to use free solutions!
[#SaveSheffTrees](#)



12 295 225

Andy Kershaw Media · 26/06/2018
 Sheffield's oldest protestor 83 year old Roy Parkin is sitting in on the Town Hall steps over plans to fell Western Road's Memorial Trees. He's done 25 hours so far @BBCSheffield



19 304 554

The Sad Squirrel @TheSadSq... · 11/11/2017 ...
 A living monument to a fallen hero salutes its final autumn.. One of 50 healthy WW1 memorial trees set to be mercilessly felled by #Sheffield Council & Amey for PFI profit. #SaveSheffTrees #ArmisticeDay amp.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/o...



18 445 258

Andy Kershaw Media · 11/11/2017 ...
 A large crowd around Sheffield's threatened Western Road Memorial Trees for a special day of art and remembrance @BBCSheffield @SheffTreeAction



134 195

Sheffield City Council and South Yorkshire Police were heavily criticised for their controversial and heavy handed actions whilst felling street trees on Abbeydale Park Rise.

Lord Scriven wrote to Steve Watson, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police, questioning how the removal of 'one tree' required the attendance of 33 officers and 20 security staff.

In response, Steve Watson, said South Yorkshire Police was 'fair and even-handed' and 'absolutely impartial'.

Dr Alan Billings, South Yorkshire Police Crime Commissioner, whose role it is to act as the voice of the community and hold South Yorkshire Police force to account, echoed Steve Watson's blinkered assessment.

Rivelin Valley's Lime Tree Avenue

The majestic lime tree avenue of Rivelin Valley Road, planted in 1906 and originally numbering around 700 trees, is the second longest lime tree avenue in the UK. A true jewel in Sheffield's arboreal crown.

A three mile scented corridor for bees, wildlife and humans and an important historical and natural heritage site. Rivelin Valley is littered with the remains of 20 old water wheels and 21 mill dams dating from the 16th to 19th centuries.

Alongside nature's reclaimed echoes of Sheffield's cutlery and steel industries, Rivelin Valley is now haunted by the infamous viral incident of a protesting resident being arrested for tooting on a toy trumpet.

Facing fierce opposition and staunch levels of direct action, only two of the 31 limes marked for the chop were felled, one of them next to Rivelin's roadside children's water park.

Western Road War Memorial Trees

Planted in 1919, the avenue of trees on Western Road is a designated WWI memorial to the pupils of Western Road School who died during The First World War.

Sheffield City Council and Amey planned to mercilessly fell 23 of the 54 memorial trees on Western Road, chopping them down in their prime, just like the fallen boys they represent.

Widening the reach of their betrayal, Sheffield City Council and Amey planned to fell 41, mostly healthy, WWI memorial trees across Sheffield in the build up to The First World War Centenary year.

In August 2017, Street Tree Art Sheffield [STARTS] and Rob 'Tree Hunter' McBride, invited prominent artist, Dan Llywelyn Hall and members of the public, to capture the Western Road memorial trees on canvas.

This public commemorative art event, celebrating and documenting the threatened memorial trees, featured on the BBC One Show and culminated in an art exhibition at Yellow



Natalie Bennett @natalie... · 06/03/2018 ...
 #Sheffield today - 2 Police Inspectors, 3 Police Sergeants, 2 Police Liaison Officers, 2 Police Evidence Gatherers, 23 Police Constables, a Police CCTV mobile surveillance, c. 40 @Ameypc staff & contractors. Zero trees felled. Great work by the people!

SheffTreeSteel @Sheff... · 06/03/2018

Latest #saveshefftrees updates, large police presence to support the felling of healthy trees the @SheffCouncil own tree panel had actually recommended to save, can't make it up #sheffielddissuper #airpollution #PFIscandal saveshefftrees.org.uk/category/news/...



27 280 327



Bianca Jagger Nicaraguen... · 11/12/2017 ...
 Dear Michael Gove please stop these unspeakable #CrimesAgainstNature: Gateway to #SheffieldBotanicalGarden tree planted by Sir Frederic Mappin, coming down just for disrupting the pavement. All reasonable solutions to save these trees have being ignored. Shame on you #SCC x.com/streetreart/...

4 74 74



Trees for Cities @TreesforCit... · 16/10/2017 ...
 We stand in support with all fighting to save the #VernonOak & the many other healthy trees in #Sheffield #SaveSheffTrees @WoodlandTrust

The Vernon Oak in particular is of huge cultural value to many, with many years of life ahead and has provoked incredibly strong responses from many both locally and further afield too.

What is also certain is the memories created in recent months will not reflect well on Sheffield; arrests, court cases and claims for costs by the city council will stick with many for years to come. No-one can possibly deny the value of one tree, let alone thousands so how has the city council found itself in this position?

If nothing else we all need to learn from this debacle to ensure other cities do not suffer the same fate. Many local authorities are taking positive steps to integrate and cherish their street trees but yet more still needs to be done.

We will continue to influence, guide and support policymakers and ultimately try and make the step change needed to see all urban trees provided with a proper framework for their care and management."



David J Elliott

2 218 353

Arch studio, entitled 'Fallen Boys, Standing Trees'.

In December 2017, Councillors voted to remove the trees after estimating it would cost a PFI inflated £500,000 to save them. During an explosive council meeting, Bryan Lodge paraded through the Council Chamber clutching a slice of a felled WWI memorial Cherry tree proclaiming it was 'hollow and rotten'.

The only thing that was hollow and rotten in the chamber that day was Sheffield's PFI flag waving Labour council and their treacherous £2.2 Billion PFI contract.

Sheffield City Council and Amey felled 6 out of the planned 23 Western Road memorial trees before campaign pressure prevailed and Sheffield City Council retreated under a barrage of bad publicity.

Finding themselves in no man's land, Sheffield City Council eventually reached a costly agreement with Amey to retain the remainder of the trees.

Nether Edge Conservation Area

Nether Edge, developed by local cutler George Wostenholm from the 1840's onward and known for its grand streets lined with century-old limes, planes, and cherry trees, became a focal point for felling protests. Designated as a Conservation Area in 2002 due to the historical significance, Sheffield City Council and Amey planned to fell whole avenues of trees.

Community campaign group Save Nether Edge Trees [SNET], now NESST, formed in 2015 to protect existing street trees from felling. Paul Selby, member of Save Nether Edge Trees, identified that 172 of the 1,095 street trees in S7, the Nether Edge postcode area, were threatened with felling.

Following a campaign backed arboreal survey, the Save Nether Edge Trees campaign group concluded only 14 of these 172 trees actually required felling based on the trees' condition.

In February 2017, in an attempt to stop the felling of a tree on Chippinghouse Road, local Green councillor Allison Teal and six fellow protestors were arrested on suspicion of preventing lawful work under section 241 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1992.

At another hotly contested felling in Nether Edge, a French magician broke through an army of security, police and contractors to climb upon an old stump and defiantly recite poetry to crowds of tree campaigners below. The magician turned impromptu poet was promptly arrested for entering a work safety zone. Zero trees were felled.

Ecclesall Road

Sheffield's golden mile, Ecclesall Road is home to independent shops, cafes and bars. The Victorians planted many of the now mature street trees on Ecclesall Road to bring the "woods into the city" and create an "urban forest" for the cities middle class

Alex Moore @AlexNoMooreNews · 07/01/2017
Video from today's #SaveSheffTrees yellow ribbon protest at the Town Hall thestar.co.uk/news/protester... #StarLive



2 replies 13 retweets 12 likes

John Dawson @dawsonjo... · 03/11/2017
#SaveSheffTrees standoff in S7 this morning as #MaskedMan turns up and barriers block street and homes



The Star, Sheffield and 5 others

4 replies 44 retweets 42 likes

Tweety Pops @TweetyPops... · 08/03/2018
Gentleman refusing to leave the tree



4 replies 25 retweets 23 likes

Andy Kershaw Media · 06/12/2017
Tree campaigners from @SheffTreeAction continue to halt operations in Sheffield as a protestor climbs up to halt felling in Meersbrook Park Road @BBCSheffield



6 replies 94 retweets 86 likes

residents.

A premium Sheffield location, Ecclesall Road's street trees not only improve the area's retail economy and street scene but also help mitigate the damaging effects of local traffic congestion and illegal levels of air pollution.

Despite the "Save Ecclesall Road Trees" campaign, Sheffield City Council and Amey removed 13 street trees, a third of all the street trees on Ecclesall Road.

Thompson Road - Mappin Trees

Adjacent to Ecclesall Road sits the Thompson Road entrance to Sheffield's Botanical Garden. In 1900, The Town Trust lead by Sheffield industrialist and philanthropist, Sir Frederick Mappin, planted an avenue of 22 lime trees leading towards the botanical gardens and installed new gates and railings.

Of the 22 trees on Thompson Road, Sheffield City Council and Amey planned to fell 4 of these healthy and historic trees, stating kerb and footway damage.

With fierce opposition, including from campaign friend Bianca Jagger and local campaigners, no trees on Thompson Road were felled.

[Click here to find out more about the Great Trees of Sheffield.](#)

People are Taking to the Streets

Despite Sheffield City Council's concerted efforts to crush Sheffield's spirited tree campaign and silence political opposition, residents remained determined to stop the environmental destruction being wrought upon their streets by a PFI crazed council.

Having endured five painful years of felling and political mismanagement, by 2017 the streets of Sheffield were becoming increasingly chaotic and residents were riled.

The tree campaign, full of potent and well focussed energy, was causing significant issues on the ground and drawing wide-spread media and public attention.

On Saturday 7 January, campaigners took part in a city centre protest march before forming a symbolic human yellow ribbon around Sheffield Town Hall. Across Sheffield non-violent direct action was being used to blistering effect by both independent residents and organised campaign groups.

In a press statement to Radio Sheffield on 20 January 2017, amidst a wave of intense campaign action, Cllr Bryan Lodge ramped up tensions by stating that 10,000 trees were now to be felled over the course of the contract.

Throughout 2017, the 'Sheffield Trees Flying Squad' launched a highly spirited and sustained campaign of non-violent direct action [NVDA]. Entering into a game of cat and mouse with arbs and authorities, Flying Squad members tailed Amey's

The Sad Squirrel @TheSad... · 23/08/2017
 The battle to save #Sheffield's iconic street trees from £2.2bn PFI rot & dirty politics continues.. #SaveSheffTrees



From theguardian.com
 3 replies 99 retweets 79 likes

Jack Scott @Jack_Scott · 15/01/2018
 New #SaveSheffTrees
 Video : youtu.be/a5ak_V8RS7s

Please watch and share - this is the impact and damage by a tiny minority of sinister, masked protestors... #SheffieldIsSuper
 40 replies 7 retweets 2 likes

SheffTreeSteel @SheffT... · 18/01/2018
 #SaveSheffTrees article written by Prof Jennifer Saul and Rebecca Hammond that scrutinises the recent @Ameyplc propaganda video, that has only deepened the hole being dug by the @SheffCouncil #FakeNews room
[#sheffielddissuper #pfiscandal #ecovandalism savesheffieldtrees.org.uk/2018/01/18/ame...](https://www.sheffielddissuper.com/pfiscandal/#ecovandalism)



1 reply 17 retweets 13 likes

The Sad Squirrel @TheS... · 10/07/2017
 5000 HEALTHY TREES CHOPPED, 14 ARRESTS, 17 INJUNCTIONS & one Council who had NOT READ THE CONTRACT! #Sheffield #SaveSheffTrees #PFIScandal



Streets Ahead and 9 others
 26 replies 733 retweets 401 likes

chipper vans to felling locations across the city, using WhatsApp to coordinate a ground response.

Campaigners would attempt to halt the felling of trees by either stepping into safety zones, sitting under trees [bunnying] or climbing up into branches [squirrelling]. Campaigners also exploited injunction loopholes by standing between barriers and property boundaries where they were outside of the safety zone but under the tree canopy [geckoing].

Across the city, residents would also make use of private land, standing under threatened street trees in people's front gardens, where council and police had no authority.

When challenged, residents cheerful quips of 'not on the road' further beset the hapless injunction waving council, leaving Sheffield City Council and Amey's chainsaw wielding entourage unable to establish a safe working zone and commence their PFI tree felling.

To further frustrate tree felling operations, residents and campaigners conducted slow walks and obstructed Amey vehicles. On one occasion, campaigners blockaded the Olive Grove council depot housing Amey's arboreal tools of destruction.

Residents would purposefully delay removal of cars from felling zones and idly engage in chit chat with arbs, supplying tea and biscuits in a bid to distract and slow progress.

The use of peaceful direct action by Sheffield tree campaigners was effective. In June 2017 alone, contractors had to abandon 329 of the 472 fellings that were attempted.

Independent documentary film 'The Felling' compiles footage from the streets of Sheffield, capturing the extraordinary tactics residents used to protect and save their trees. The Felling premiered in March 2022 at Sheffield City Hall and is available to view online.

[Click here to view documentary film 'The Felling'.](#)

[Click here to read 'Person's Unknown' \[Payne/Crump\].](#)

[Click here to find out more about the use of NVDA in Sheffield](#)

PFI Propaganda

In an attempt to deflect away from the chaotic scenes on the streets of Sheffield and win back the support of the city's residents, Sheffield City Council cranked up their PFI PR machine.

Council press statements conflating street trees with those situated in the outlying Peak District National Park, public parks and private gardens were used to obscure the scale and impact of their PFI street tree felling.

In a brash attempt to discredit campaigners, Sheffield City Council disseminated pro felling propaganda. Fake news reports appeared in The Sheffield Star, including a story claiming protestors had given toxic tea to arbs. [See Page 29 -

Jeremy Vine | Here, on Ti... · 05/02/2016
 Phones went crazy today, callers angry about #SheffieldTrees - blind lady furious that "council using disability as excuse to cut them down"

CycleSheffield @Cycle... · 07/06/2018
 We have 1602 supporters and none of them have ever expressed a concern to us about tree roots being a hazard whilst cycling.

The Sad Squirrel @TheSadS... · 17/07/2017
 A DARK DAY FOR #SHEFFIELD & THE RIGHT TO PEACEFUL PROTEST. #Solidarity with the #SaveSheffTrees 9 facing injunction hearings today. #Scandal



Sheffield Tree Protector News and 7 others

7 219 191

SheffTreeSteel @SheffTr... · 27/11/2017
 The day SCC lost the plot, decent hard working folk simply taking a stand vs. wanton felling of healthy mature trees, for corporate greed. Against waves of expert opinion, SCC refuses to budge, 2 protect #pfi profit over people #saveshefftrees #sheffieldissuper #CyberMonday



16 220 123

The Toxic Tea Affair]

Sheffield City Council also peddled stories of disabled residents unable to use pavements due to root damage and cyclists coming a cropper on wonky kerbs. Sheffield Cycling, were quick to point out no members had ever complained about trees and a blind lady calling into Jeremy Vine's BBC Radio 4 show was 'furious that [Sheffield] council were using disability as an excuse to cut them down'.

A professional PR smear video produced by Amey and Sheffield City Council was circulated on social media by councillors Jack Scott and Neale Gibson. The video vilified vocal residents and campaigners, nefariously sowing seeds of community division.

In early 2016, Sheffield City Council also sent a public 'Perspective' letter to campaigners. Signed by 17 people including councillors and union officials in a personal capacity, the letter said the city faced more pressing matters, including funding cuts and the 'bedroom tax' before criticising campaigners for focussing on the most 'affluent neighbourhoods' of the city.

Dave Dillner, Chair of STAG, described the letter as nonsense before adding 'This is about trees, not politics'

Further stoking division, Cllr Neale Gibson suggested without evidence that peaceful tree protests were "marked with violence, swearing, disruption, threats, abuse and racism"

[Click here to find out more about PFI Propaganda.](#)

High Court Injunction [Brooke/Payne/Teal/Persons Unknown]

With arrests stacking up, direct action having significant impact and no sign of either council or tree campaign backing down, Sheffield City Council issued high court injunction papers to core campaign members.

The injunction trial took place on 26-28 July 2017 at Leeds High Court. Nine campaign members were called to appear before Justice Males. Sheffield City Council sought to bring injunctions against all named campaigners and 'Persons Unknown' from taking 'unlawful direct action' and 'entering safety zones'.

Brandishing their 'Five Year Tree Management Strategy' published in February 2016, dated January 2016, Labour Council Leaders Julie Dore, Bryan Lodge and Terry Fox and PFI flag waving council officers Simon Green, David Caulfield and Paul Billington actively initiated and took part in legal proceedings.

Councillor Bryan Lodge said: 'We will continue to support the right to peaceful protest, but this is different from trespassing, preventing vital highway works from continuing'.

'We never wanted to be in this position and those stepping inside the safety zones were given numerous opportunities to

Liberty @libertyhq · 11/07/2018
 The right to protest is fundamental. The injunction dated 17/08/17 bans people from entering safety zone around any tree due to be felled. It doesn't give police general power to require people to show ID in order to access public roads 1/2 medium.com/@jennifersaul/... #SaveSheffTrees



Papers, please: Sheffield council to demand re...

From medium.com

8 121 106

Natalie Bennett @natalie... · 01/12/2017
 What's happening in the struggle to #SaveSheffTrees? It's got a lot uglier, and the right to peaceful protest is even more under threat #Sheffield huffingtonpost.com/entry/lawlessn...

7 129 77

Chris Packham @ChrisGP... · 18/06/2018
 When will humans wake up and see we need to learn how to live alongside each other and our own habitat rather than getting rid of everything we perceive to be a threat . . . #saveshefftrees @SaveSheffTrees



70 938 1.8K

Monty Don @TheMontyDon · 03/04/2018
 I am afraid I am unable to be there but has my 100% support. #saveshefftrees x.com/rosieacknowledges...

8 193 455

Friends of the Earth @fr... · 12/06/2018
 Replying to @friends_earth
 Meanwhile, closer to home... theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/j... #Newcastle #Sheffield #SaveSheffTrees



From theguardian.com

3 20 12

prevent us seeking injunctions'.

Alluding to secret contractual financial penalties, Lodge added:

'We have a responsibility to the taxpayers of Sheffield to do everything we can to avoid catastrophic financial consequences if the Streets Ahead work is not completed by the end of the year'.

During proceedings, Council Officer Paul Billington provided a witness statement to the High Court in which he said:

"6000 trees were to be removed in the city and replaced with saplings" adding "for the avoidance of doubt, the vast majority of street trees in Sheffield are being retained [30,000 out of 36,0000]."

As a result of council applied legal pressure, six of the named defendants agreed to sign a legal undertaking with the same terms as the injunction.

Following a tense high court battle, loaded with spurious council claims, Justice Males passed judgement on 15 August 2017 and with the drop of his gavel, Sheffield City Council had successfully brought injunctions against campaign members Paul Brooke, Calvin Payne, Alison Teal and 'Persons Unknown', coming into force on 22 August 2017, pending any appeal and running until 25 July 2018.

[Click here to find out more about the High Court injunction.](#)

#SaveSheffTrees

Whilst the community led battle to save thousands of threatened street trees continued to take root on the streets of Sheffield, the #SaveSheffTrees hashtag was fast becoming the digital frontline in the online battle for hearts and minds and a unique gateway to complicit council members.

Created by core STAG members in late 2016, the #SaveSheffTrees hashtag aimed to unify and focus existing Sheffield trees twitter noise and help give a voice to local residents.

Loaded with petitions, frontline footage, open public debate, FOI reporting, information analysis, fact checking, news reports and subversive cartoons from artists including Lydia Monks, Kid Acne, The Sad Squirrel, Jonesy, Stokoe, Marshall Unfunny, McGeary, Deaks, Tree Hugga, MJ Keane, Stirrup, Aidan Kelly, James Whitworth, Harry Venning and Graeme Bandeira. [See [The Battle to Save Sheffield's Street Trees - A Cartoon War](#)]

#SaveSheffTrees was soon trending, building strong networks and breaking through algorithmic echo chambers, attracting a fast growing highly engaged audience, delivering real world impact and feeding energy back into the wider Sheffield trees campaign.

With complicit Labour councillors skulking, attempting to shut down debate and keen to dismiss residents' concerns, Twitter became a unique access point to an increasingly combative

Michael J Kea... · 02/02/2018
 Lego City (Sheffield Edition)
 #SaveSheffTrees



Alison Teal and 4 others

24 329 433

Steve Pocock @spacedapen... · 12/02/2018
 Just some of those from around the UK and World who care about Sheffield's trees
 #TheWorldIsWatching #SaveSheffTrees
 @sheffieldlamby @TheSadSquirrel
 @SAVEDORETREES @sj_unwin
 @RebeccaHammond7




2 124 132

Craig Bennett @CraigBe... · 26/07/2017
 The felling of street trees & treatment of protestors in #Sheffield is v alarming
 #SaveSheffTrees See @yorkshirepost
 yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/opinion/t...

3 33 24

Jeremy Barrell @JeremyD... · 23/06/2018
 Paul Barton, a top UK tree expert, was a tree surveyor in Sheffield in 2012, & writes in the @ArbAssociation ARBmagazine: "The Sheffield Streets Ahead contract is providing a fascinating but depressing case study on how not to do urban forestry." #SaveSheffTrees #TreeTruths



Amey and Barton_Hyett

6 156 172

jo turner @am... · 10/01/2018
 Look to Sheffield: this is how state and corporate power subverts democracy | George Monbiot. theguardia #SaveSheffTreesfree/...
 From Oct. but if missed... #SaveSheffTrees

2 12 7

group of council members.

At significant moments in the campaign, interactions with complicit councillors and unsavoury anonymous trolls such as John 'Neale Gibson' Blake, Ian 'Paul Billington' Cider, Bobby Monkey, Jim O'Shea and Zack Rocha became regular sport.

The trolls were widely believed to be vexed councillors and council officers with a conflicted axe of interest to grind, however an internal council investigation found no evidence to support this claim.

The readiness of Cllr Jack Scott and Cllr Neale Gibson to enter into combative twitter interactions with concerned residents illustrates the level of political arrogance and public contempt that existed within the contract signing council ranks.

Twitter became a hostile environment, a testament to the success of the #SaveSheffTrees campaign.

The use of the #SaveSheffTrees hashtag by Bianca Jagger, Chris Packham, The Yorkshire Post, The Guardian, James Mitchinson, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Amnesty, The Woodland Trust, Trees for Cities, Jeremy Barrell, Alastair Humphries and Benjamin Zephaniah demonstrated the reach and impact of the campaign.

Fact checking public statements and press releases from Sheffield City Council and Amey, robust twitter pile-ons by clued up residents and core #SaveSheffTrees campaigners further disrupted an already squeaky PFI PR machine.

Building real world networks, the #SaveSheffTrees hashtag acted as a powerful conduit of information for environmental groups, journalists, media outlets and news platforms.

Michael Keane's 'Streets Ahead Peoples Audit' and the sharing of Freedom Of Information [FOI] updates by campaigners such as David Long, Paul Selby and Marcus Combie, encouraged a culture of public scrutiny, an instrumental line of attack in exposing the obfuscation and deceit surrounding the Streets Ahead PFI contract.

Many #SaveSheffTrees contributors campaigned at street level, protecting and championing the street trees in their local neighbourhood, sharing petitions, supporting STAG's legal fundraising efforts and proudly displaying the #SaveSheffTrees hashtag on banners and placards at anti felling protest events.

Iconic Sheffield street trees such as Vernon Oak, Duchess Lime, Lavinia Lime and Chelsea Road elm, each had their own twitter account offering a very personal insight into the life of a Sheffield street tree.

Building a strong and sustained twitter momentum, #SaveSheffTrees helped shine a far-reaching light on the environmentally destructive PFI actions of Sheffield City Council, Amey and South Yorkshire Police.

Influential supporter, @ticl_me said 'I am sure twitter noise helped #SaveSheffTrees. The Sad Squirrel most definitely agrees! [See The Sad Squirrel - Throwing Nuts, Hitting Targets]

Robert Macfarlane @Ro... · 11/09/2017 ...
 "Chainsaw massacre": fine piece by @patrick_barkham on "ruinous" felling of mature urban trees in Sheffield & London theguardian.com/commentisfree/...



14 291 249

Louise Wilcockson @Lo... · 16/01/2018 ...
 Impressive grilling by @tobyfoster of Amey Account Mgrn Darren Butt 2day (7.36am 16.1.18) on hiring of 'stewards' 2 remove #sheffield tree protectors & an Amey film that Toby calls "a dreadful piece of propaganda" & anonymous contributors bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05... @TheSadSquirrel

7 48 41

Alastair Humphreys @AL_Hu... · 13/07/2017 ...
 Even Private Eye is outraged at what @SheffCouncil are doing to their city's trees.



2 91 94

Neil Meadows @Neilythere74 · 11/03/2018 ...
 #SaveSheffTrees supporters are being demonised by @SheffieldStar as being violent activists. They are supporting this #Pfisccandal in the face of so many lies by elected councillors. #Sheffhero 's are not going away #PowerToThePeaceful



10 14

[Click here to find out more about #SaveSheffTrees.](#)

Sheffield Trees in the News

The visceral optics of Sheffield City Council and Amey dismembering healthy mature street trees, surrounded by police officers, private security, shocked residents and campaign group members, became a regular feature in local, regional and national news cycles.

Also a regular feature in the news was the sound of complicit council officials trying to squirm their way round awkward questions surrounding their ever shifting contractual secrecy, excessive legal manoeuvres and industrial scale felling.

Local media platforms Sheffield Telegraph, Sheffield Star, Sheffield Live, BBC Radio Sheffield, Exposed Magazine and Now Then Magazine picked up the story.

As campaign pressure increased, regional publications and broadcasters took notice with BBC Look North, ITV Calendar News and regional broadsheet powerhouse The Yorkshire Post, all providing coverage.

BBC Radio Sheffield's Toby Foster, regularly featured Sheffield tree updates on his breakfast show, pitching phone ins and conducting interviews with campaigners, council members and Amey representatives.

Getting to the crux of the matter, Toby Foster's ability to cut through Cllr Bryan Lodge's PFI rhetoric and contractual mistruths made for enlightening and fiery content.

BBC Sheffield's roaming reporter, Andy Kershaw, shared regular updates from PFI felling sites, proving a key source of information and evidence for the #SaveSheffTrees and wider Sheffield trees campaign.

Editorial features appeared in national and international publications including ArbMagazine, The Civil Engineer, Private Eye, Country Life, The Guardian, Daily Mail, Daily Mirror, The Independent, The Economist, El Mundo and The New York Times.

Private Eye, awarded Sheffield City Council the Rotten Boroughs Award in both 2017 and 2018 for "the felling of thousands of trees" and later colluded with The Sad Squirrel in the production of the damning 'Felling Lies' cartoon editorial. [See The Sad Squirrel - Throwing Nuts Hitting Targets!]

Coverage on BBC's One Show, BBC News, BBC Radio, BBC Politics Podcast, ITV News, Channel 4 News, Sky News, and LBC was soon propelling the Sheffield trees campaign nationwide and beyond.

By mid 2017, the Sheffield tree campaign had become a hot topic and a complete PR disaster for Sheffield City Council, Amey and South Yorkshire Police.

Once famous around the world for steel and cutlery, Sheffield was now infamous for it's senseless PFI street tree felling and

James Mitchinson @JayMitc... · 02/10/2017 ...
 An unlikely Steel City hero emerges as the streets where @sebcoe trained become bleached of historic natural magnificence. 🌲 @michaelgove



Defra UK and 7 others
 5 80 80

James Mitchinson · 09/08/2017
 We made a difference today. The Yorkshire Post did what it's meant to do for the people and communities we serve. Proud to #makeadifference



45 282 449

Tree Watch @tree_watch · 11/08/2017
 Michael Gove demands end to Sheffield tree-felling programme [theguardian.com/politics/2017/...](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/08/11/michael-gove-demands-end-to-sheffield-tree-felling-programme) @guardianeco #SaveSheffTrees 🌳🌳

5 252 93

SheffTreeSteel @SheffTreeS... · 17/07/2017
 1000s perfectly healthy trees needlessly felled = private shareholder profit - benefit loss to city = £m's. Sadder & poorer #saveshefftrees



10 213 130

controversial use of policing.

[Click here to access essential news articles.](#)

Yorkshire Post - Feeling the Burn

The Sheffield Star, content with spouting council lines, was in stark contrast to the combative Yorkshire Post who, with editor James Mitchinson at its helm, brought journalistic integrity and energy to the press debate.

In the face of extreme pressure and with Sheffield City Council questioning their credibility, James Mitchinson, Chris Burn and the editorial team at the Yorkshire Post remained true to core journalistic principles.

James Mitchinson defiantly tweeted “where [Sheffield City Council] crank up their stupidity, we'll crank up our scrutiny. #SaveSheffTrees”

In September 2017, James Mitchinson used his press position to lobby for and orchestrate then environment minister, Michael Gove’s visit to Sheffield which resulted in the very public lampooning of Sheffield City Council by central government.

Firing from all angles, The Yorkshire Post cartoonist, Graeme Bandeira, caught the wave of #SaveSheffTrees cartoon warfare, further applying a satirical squeeze on Sheffield City Council, Amey and South Yorkshire Police.

Weaponising his paint brush, Bandeira depicted Gove as a Squirrel firing nuts at complicit councillors, Jarvis Cocker protesting from a tree house and heavy handed tactical police officers arresting a campaigner for blowing a toy trumpet.

Alongside Bandeira at The Yorkshire Post, cartoons also featured in Private Eye [Greene, Jonesy, Aidan Stokes, Marshall, Stokoe, McGeary, Barfield], The Sheffield Telegraph and Sheffield Star [James Whitworth] and The Guardian [Harry Venn]. [See [The Battle to Save Sheffield's Street Trees - A Cartoon War](#)]

Praised for his incremental reporting over a lengthy period of time, in 2024, Chris Burn received a National Journalism Award for his investigative articles in the Yorkshire Post covering the Sheffield trees dispute.

[Click here to access essential Yorkshire Post news articles.](#)

Michael Gove ‘Environmental Vandalism’

In September 2017, following an intense wave of campaign activity, media scrutiny, political pressure and police arrests, BBC News declared to the nation 'this is madness’ and central UK government descended on Sheffield.

Environment Secretary Michael Gove’s visit to Sheffield, orchestrated by James Mitchinson of The Yorkshire Post, concluded with a meeting between Michael Gove, local campaigners, Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, and

The Sad Squirrel @TheSadS... · 23/10/2017 ...
 #Sheffield PFI tree scandal deepens as embattled council seek to imprison Green cllr Alison Teal & Calvin Payne this Friday
 #SaveSheffTrees



Streets Ahead and 8 others

17 296 174

Jeremy Barrell @JeremyD... · 21/04/2018
 Just took a walk around the Kenwood Park area in Sheffield to see for myself the scale of the tree felling proposed by Sheffield City Council. I have been to a lot of urban places in the world, but I have never seen anything as wrong as this.
 #SaveSheffTrees #TreeTruths



27 302 402

SheffTreeSteel @SheffT... · 24/01/2018 ...
 When #democracy can't save 1000s healthy street trees, ordinary folk forced 2 do extraordinary things; take it on the chin legally peacefully protesting (incomplete zone = no injunction breach), all 2 halt mindless corporate #pfi #profit #ecovandalism chainsaws #saveshefftrees



18 119 77

Sheffield City Council.

Following his visit, Gove promised to stop Sheffield City Council's "environmental vandalism" and in a public letter to Sheffield City Council described the situation as 'bonkers, likening the tree felling to "pulling the teeth from a friend's familiar smile"'.
 In a furious response to Gove's public letter, Cllr Bryan Lodge declared stopping Sheffield tree-felling 'would be morally reprehensible'.

In a furious response to Gove's public letter, Cllr Bryan Lodge declared stopping Sheffield tree-felling 'would be morally reprehensible'.

[Click here to find out about Michael Gove's visit to Sheffield.](#)

Contempt of Court Hearing [Payne/Teal]

Despite Justice Males granting the high court injunction in August 2017, Sheffield City Council and Amey continued to be met by unwavering community resistance and direct action.

Aggravated, Sheffield City Council once again escalated legal proceedings bringing contempt of court charges against Calvin Payne and Green cllr Alison Teal.

Yaaser Vanderman represented Sheffield City Council at the sentencing hearing. Paul Powlesland, Barrister & founder of Lawyers for Nature, represented Sheffield tree campaigners.

In his judgment dated 31 October 2017, Justice Males found Calvin Payne in contempt on three counts but dismissed the case against Alison Teal.

At the sentencing on 3 November 2017, Justice Males sentenced Calvin Payne to 3 months' imprisonment suspended for 12 months. In his sentencing remarks, Justice Males described Payne as 'contumacious' [stubbornly disobedient to authority] before adding:

"Calvin Payne, I have found you to be in contempt of court in three respects.

The first is that on Thursday 28 September 2017, you entered or remained in a safety zone erected around a tree on Kenwood Road in Sheffield.

The second is that on Friday 29 September you entered or remained in a safety zone erected around a tree on the same road.

The third is that on Friday 6th October 2017 you encouraged others to enter safety zones to be erected around trees in a Facebook post which you posted on the Save Never Edge Trees Facebook page.

Each of these acts was a deliberate breach of the injunction.

Calvin Payne, the sentence I pass on you is one of three months imprisonment, suspended for one year. You must in addition pay the council's legal costs which I assess summarily in the sum of £16,000."

[Read Justice Male's sentencing remarks here.](#)



SheffTreeSteel @SheffT... · 16/01/2018
 When overwhelming condemnation from industry experts & even #democracy can't save 1000s healthy street trees from mindless #EcoVandalism by corporate #pfi profiteering chainsaws, sometimes ordinary folk feel forced to do extraordinary things to raise awareness #saveshefftrees



21 204 181



Alison Teal @aliso... · 19/01/2018
 @SheffieldGreens @SheffTreeAction @natalieben @TheGreenParty Take a look at these people. Meersbrook Park Rd has been on the frontline all week. This is how the beautiful, courageous, caring residents chose to finish the week. I don't know who they all are, but I love them all xo



8 163 253



Robert Macfarlane @RobG... · 25/02/2018
 "'Europe's greenest city' has lost 5,000 trees, chopped down by a private company despite furious local protests": on the continued, abysmal, absurd deforestation of Sheffield.



From theguardian.com

61 1.2K 1.1K

Through their aggressive application of legal process, Sheffield City Council had not only secured a conviction of a tree defending resident, but had also saddled them with a crushing legal bill.

[Read about Calvin Payne in 'Contumacious: The Accidental Tree-Hugger'.](#)

[Click here to find out more about this Contempt of Court Hearing](#)

Private Security and 'Reasonable Force'

By January 2018, the embattled streets of Sheffield had reached fever pitch, in a further escalation, Amey officially authorised their private security guards to use 'reasonable force' to remove protestors from safety zones around trees.

Not bowing to Amey's threats of force, the Sheffield tree campaign selflessly continued to apply fierce pressure, with residents across the city physically blocking the felling of healthy street trees.

The scale of community resistance in areas such as Nether Edge and Heeley was irrepressible and 'The Battle of Meersbrook Park Road' marked a climax in campaign activity with local Labour MP Louise Haigh commenting that the fellings and the policing around them were "unsustainable".

[Click here to find out more about Amey's Private Security.](#)

The Battle of Meersbrook Park Road

On 22 January 2018, Meersbrook Park Road became a defining battleground moment in the Sheffield trees dispute.

With large crowds gathering and an angry energy in the air, physical scuffles between Amey's security guards and protesters soon broke out. By lunchtime the barrier around one of the targeted trees had been downed and campaigners had breached the safety zone.

Brooke, co-chair of STAG, and Sutherland, a married couple living on the road, found themselves in the centre of the action.

Brooke named in the High Court injunction, was outside the barrier. Sutherland, Brooke's wife, was inside the safety zone – her face obscured by a mask. As security guards tried to remove Sutherland from inside the barriers, she flopped to the ground, making her body dead weight. The guard dragged her by her arms on the ground, before leaving her on the floor.

Sutherland was unharmed, but from his view point in the crowd, Brooke thought she was being assaulted. Seeing her limp body on the ground, he pushed through the crowd and kicked down the metal barrier to run to his wife's defence.

About 20 people ran in after him and linked arms around the tree, breaching the injunction. Lying on the ground, Sutherland had not seen her husband. She scrambled to her feet and

The Sad Squirrel @TheSadS... · 12/01/2018 ...
PRIVATE EYE ROTTEN BOROUGH AWARDS 2017.. and the Millstone Grit Award for "the felling of thousands of trees" goes to Sheffield Council 🙌 #Sheffield #SaveSheffTrees



Private Eye Magazine and 6 others

🗨️ 21 🔄 475 ❤️ 405 📊 📌 📤

Andy Kershaw Media 🗣️ · 07/02/2018 ...
Sheffield tree campaigners are staging a peaceful overnight sit-in of Sheffield's Town Hall Council chamber demanding to see the contract between @SheffCouncil & @Ameyplc



🗨️ 32 🔄 246 ❤️ 402 📊 📌 📤

Chris Burn @ChrisBurn... · 06/03/2023 ...
Have written lots on the Sheffield tree scandal over the years but this is up there as one of the maddest stories of the whole lot - Council bosses contemplated proactive mass killings of trees in the city in a desperate attempt to 'defeat' protesters



🗨️ 17 🔄 145 ❤️ 232 📊 129K 📌 📤

Duchess Lime 🌳🌳🌳🌳... · 24/10/2023
Chainsaws, disguises and toxic tea: the battle for Sheffield's trees #SaveSheffTrees. Great article @gdnlongread 🙏🌳



🗨️ 1 🔄 4 ❤️ 3 📊 162 📌 📤

joined the others around the tree.

Paul Brooke, also having breached the High Court injunction, knew he would end up in court. He also realised that if he showed any sign of affection to Sutherland, he might give away his wife's identity, and she would also face prosecution. Seeing that Sutherland was not injured, Brooke slipped out of the safety zone but later received contempt of court papers.

[\[See Page 39 - Contempt of Court Hearing \[Brooke\]\]](#)

[Click here to find out more about The Battle of Meersbrook Park Road.](#)

Temporary Pause

Despite private bouncers using 'reasonable force' and excessive PFI police operations resulting in multiple arrests, authorities had lost all control on the streets of Sheffield and Amey were forced to temporarily pause the tree replacement programme on 26 January 2018.

Initially for one week, the pause was extended until the end of February 2018.

In a press statement, Sheffield City Council said it was halting tree-felling work temporarily due to "the actions of a handful of people unlawfully entering the safety zones".

South Yorkshire Police later reported up to 100 people were taking injunction defying direct action every day on the streets of Sheffield.

Such was the level of discontent and mistrust surrounding Sheffield Labour Council and their management of the £2.2 Billion PFI contract, in February 2018, campaign members stormed a full council meeting at Sheffield Town Hall, unfurling banners and calling for an immediate end to the felling and full release of the un-redacted £2.2 Billion PFI contract.

[Click here to find out more about the Temporary Pause.](#)

Paul Billington - Ring Barking Mad

During the temporary pause, Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment at Sheffield City Council, sent an email to Bryan Lodge and John Mothersole with the subject line:

"Please print and then delete."

Billington, suggested alternative strategies to remove the remaining trees, including "ring-barking" the tree. Billington added, "It would move all trees into the 'dying' category and mean that STAG could no longer claim they were defending 'healthy' trees." CEO John Mothersole ruled the idea out.

[Click here to find out more about the Ring Barking incident.](#)

Andy Kershaw Media · 28/02/2018
 Tree protestors and foul weather have forced @Amey @sccstreetsahead tree-felling to be halted in Thornsett Road this morning @BBCSheffield



21 98 196

James Mitchinson @Jay... · 07/03/2018
 Meanwhile, in Sheffield: @UKLabour -run @SheffCouncil its contractor of choice @Ameyplc and @syptweet unashamedly unleash a co-ordinated phalanx of State enforcers to intimidate, arrest and silence people for caring about their city. #SaveSheffTrees



Greenpeace UK and 7 others
 16 243 252

Natalie Bennett @na... · 08/03/2018
 Riot helmets on the streets of #Sheffield - @syptweet dragging peaceful #saveshefftrees protester from under lorry - serving @Ameyplc (@ferrovial) to cries of "shame on you" from crowd



34 221 136

The Sad Squirrel @TheSad... · 09/03/2018
 "Chainsaw gang felling one 25ft cherry tree are protected by 48 guards as huge protests meet Sheffield Council's £2billion resurfacing plan" #SaveSheffTrees



From dailymail.co.uk
 31 304 164

The Toxic Tea Affair

In January 2018, Police launched an investigation after Amey arbs claimed they had fallen ill after drinking tea provided by disgruntled locals.

A STAG news article reported:

Retired health and safety officer Dr John Unwin and his architect wife Sue said they were astounded to be visited by detectives at their home and spoken to voluntarily.

The couple, who had been fighting Sheffield council's moves to fell the 'beautiful' limes outside their Victorian villa as part of a Streets Ahead contract, even had their kitchen cupboards and bathroom cabinet searched.

Neither were arrested but Dr Unwin, who handed out the drinks, was told he may have to attend a police station at a later date.

South Yorkshire Police said the accusations against them date from October 2017 when the Unwins served two cups of tea and an orange squash to three tree surgeons working near their home on Chatsworth Road in Dore.

All three men claimed to have become violently ill, with one needing hospital treatment. Dr Unwin and his wife vehemently denied any wrongdoing and insisted they served the drinks only as a 'delaying tactic' to frustrate the felling work.

Dr Unwin, whose front gates were decorated with the yellow ribbons said: 'Poisoning people's tea sounds like a plot from an Agatha Christie novel or something involving a Russian dissident – but Sheffield's a different place. We don't do that kind of thing. You couldn't make it up. I'm just sorry the police are having to waste their time.'

By 2018, five of the twelve lime trees on their street had been chopped down, with two more earmarked for the chop for causing an obstruction or damage to pavements.

The toxic tea affair created quite a stir!

[Read more in the Guardian article: Chainsaws, Disguises and Toxic Tea - The Battle for Sheffield Trees.](#)

[Click here to find out more about The Toxic Tea Affair.](#)

Felling Resumes

Ignoring campaign calls for mediation, Sheffield City Council and Amey resumed felling on 26 February. The violence against campaigners intensified. A security guard's wrist was broken and several protesters required hospital treatment after clashes. Cllr Lewis Dagnall said, "We're immensely lucky that no one died".

Following these dangerous clashes, Labour Cllr Lewis Dagnall led a group of backbench councillors who approached council leader, Julie Dore, to warn that there was 'a growing risk of serious injury or death'. Dagnall's warnings failed to prompt a



The Sad Squirrel @The... · 25/03/2018
 "THINGS ARE KICKING OFF IN SHEFFIELD" BBC expose PFI chaos on the stump lined streets of #Sheffield. Watch full video here: bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-434... #SaveSheffTrees



People are taking to the streets.

24 252 197



GT @Graham21 · 21/03/2018
 Was this woman really arrested for blowing on what looks like a toy trumpet? @syptweet #SaveSheffTrees



The Star, Sheffield and 8 others

127 550 731



Mark @M_cakeman · 21/03/2018
 Replying to @Graham21 @TheSadSquirrel and 9 others

Here it is. 7 police vans, a CCTV van, 2 inspectors, 20-30 police - keeping our streets safe from a toy trumpet player. Unbelievable.



1K 4.6K 4.9K

change of course.

In mid-March 2018, James Henderson, Sheffield's head of communications, wrote to Mothersole urging mediation. "Put simply," he wrote, "there is no good picture of older residents being arrested. There is no good way to photograph a tree lying in the street."

[Click here to find out more about Felling Resumes.](#)

South Yorkshire Police - Operation Quito

With chainsaws at full throttle, council rhetoric set to divisive and protesters facing up to 30 Amey PFI security guards and 30 South Yorkshire Police officers over the felling of one tree, tensions were high.

Grappling with a timely band of freezing weather and the intense wave of tree protecting civic disobedience sweeping across Sheffield, South Yorkshire Police retired 'Operation Testate' and launched 'Operation Quito' in January 2018.

Assistant Chief Constable David Hartley said, 'In terms of making sure that we're proportionate, fair and even-handed, the policing style and the numbers has changed. We've seen the move from largely peaceful protest turn into some disorder, so we had to change our approach'.

Throughout Operation Testate, between November 2016 and February 2017, seven campaigners were arrested during protests and charged under Section 241 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, legislation typically used to deal with picket lines during strikes.

The use of trade union legislation was widely criticised as an inappropriate use of the law against Sheffield's residents and a ideological affront to Labour Party founding principals.

Marking an increase in the level of police involvement, Operation Quito resulted in 25 protesters being arrested between January and March 2018 alone. Arrests were made on various grounds including obstructing the highway, entering a work zone, and obstructing a police constable.

A number of protesters were hospitalised following altercations with Amey's security and there were some increasingly bizarre arrests, including a woman playing a sparkly pink recorder, a vicar with a tambourine and Rivelin Valley Road's infamous viral incident of a protesting resident being arrested under the Public Order Act for tooting on a toy trumpet as chainsaws screamed in the trees above.

These arrests grabbed widespread media attention and raised serious questions surrounding independent and proportional policing and the right to peaceful protest.

In March 2018, two men were arrested for protesting against the felling of a tree at Kenwood Road, Nether Edge, with one of the campaigners being forcibly removed from under a vehicle by specialist Protester Removal Officers. Two women were arrested for protesting against the felling of lime trees in

Andy Kershaw Media · 05/03/2018
 Large @syptweet police presence on Abbeydale Park Rise in Sheffield as controversial tree-felling programme continues. More than 30 officers + Amey and SIA security
 @BBCSheffield



20 94 38

Lonesome Pie @Loneso... · 05/03/2018
 Replying to @andyksheffield @syptweet and @BBCSheffield

BBC News claim that police were 'called out after protestors blocked road'. Not true - police arrived with the felling crews before protest.

14 23

Fiona Muxlow @FionaM... · 05/03/2018
 Yet silence from @LouHaigh Shadow Policing Minister. Asst Chief Constable claims police taking an "independent role" whilst police on streets supporting #pfi and #amey This is a disgusting waste of valuable police resources and will damage trust in @syptweet

4 7

Sally Goldsmith · 05/03/2018
 I heard at least 57. Yes police arrived BEFORE protest though may have been a few residents out.

2 7

the big un @Ewan10478... · 05/03/2018
 I counted 5 vans of SIA security - I think 6 in each one. How can they justify the cost, but won't use the included engineering solutions

1 2 8

caroline gray @caroline... · 05/03/2018
 This is disgusting! @syptweet you said you were neutral but you lied! Amey's private security. Disgraceful!

1 3 9

Fran G @limegreentrees · 05/03/2018
 I have just witnessed a woman being dragged along the ground after trying to stop a tree being cut down. Now we're waiting for the ambulance to come. Appalling.
 #SaveSheffTrees



49 480 239

Chatsworth Road, Dore.

The overbearing and forceful nature of South Yorkshire Police operations paired with Sheffield City Council and Amey's chosen hard line legal path created deep division and tension between residents, campaigners and authorities.

In total, Operation Testate and Operation Quito resulted in the arrest of over 40 Sheffield residents.

Although Steve Watson, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police, consistently defended the force's actions as "fair and even-handed" and "absolutely impartial". Later revelations exposed a "secret joint communications strategy" between the police, the council, and the contractor Amey.

Despite Steve Watson's public claims of South Yorkshire Police being impartial, these revelations provided clear evidence of collusion.

In 2018, media reports also highlighted familial ties between Steve Watson and High Court Judge, Sir Peter Coulson, [brother in-law] who was busy handing out 'excessive' prison terms to anti-fracking protesters. Steve Watson's wife was also reported to be involved in pro lobby fracking groups and had links to fracking supply chain business. The symbiotic circles of power, money and influence spinning for all to see.

With ranks of riot gear clad police marching on stump lined streets; residents arrested using Trade Union Law; specialist protestor removal units dragging tree protectors from felling zones; mobile CCTV units gathering intelligence to support council led prosecutions; city wide high court injunctions covering named campaign members and 'Persons Unknown', council issued legal threats, platoons of unmarked private security patrolling normally peaceful residential streets; hordes of HERAS fencing barricading threatened street trees and armies of Amey arbs drafted in from all over the UK to carry pre-dawn chopping raids...

Sheffield City Council and Amey had lost all environmental and political credibility and South Yorkshire Police found themselves mired in yet another controversial policing operation. [Orgreave/Hillsborough]

[Click here to find out more about Operation Quito.](#)

PFI Penalty Payments

From the moment the Streets Ahead contract was signed, Sheffield City Council had not been honest with Sheffield's residents about the finances of this secretive PFI deal, particularly surrounding liability clauses and penalty payments.

Cllr Bryan Lodge's earlier warnings in August 2017 of 'catastrophic financial consequences' offered a threatening glimpse into the secretive world of contractual performance targets and political desperation.

A Freedom of Information request revealed that Amey rather than the council had to bear costs relating to demonstrations

The Sad Squirrel @TheS... · 07/06/2017
 Help stop #Sheffield City Council and Amey chopping down our #trees for PFI profit. Petitions 🗳️ saveshefftrees.org.uk/petitions/#SaveSheffTrees 🌳💚



4 replies 267 retweets 167 likes

The Sad Squirrel @TheS... · 17/08/2017
 #SHEFFIELD GRIPPED BY PFI INSANITY as Cllr Lodge warns trees must be felled or @Ameyplc will inflict financial catastrophe #SaveSheffTrees 💰 x.com/ChrisBurn_Post...

46 replies 253 retweets 89 likes

Rich W Esq. @rbw66 · 28/02/2018
 72% of Thornsett Rd households opposed the felling plans in the @SheffCouncil household survey for their "Independent Tree Panel". Incidentally, the ITP cost about £200k and was largely ignored. #SaveSheffTrees

7 retweets 5 likes

The Sad Squirrel @TheSadS... · 24/10/2017
 #Sheffield Trees and the PFI state-corporate system.. a GIGANTIC self-serving con. #SaveSheffTrees @GeorgeMonbiot



7 replies 137 retweets 106 likes

SheffTreeSteel @Sheff... · 20/03/2018
 Latest #saveshefftrees update; Rivelin Valley Road butchered, 2nd longest Lime avenue in England, lost TWO of its majestic, healthy, over 100 year-old Lime trees. Situated in Paul Blomfield's constituency who, only a week ago, called for mediation pause



29 replies 170 retweets 91 likes

under the terms of the contract.

A Freedom of Information request also revealed Amey would face significant financial penalty if they did not meet key performance targets and Amey would charge Sheffield City Council significant financial penalties if they renege on or alter the terms of the PFI contract.

In early 2018, a Freedom of Information request also exposed additional liability clauses stipulating that if Sheffield City Council “save” any tree, they and not Amey would be liable for subsequent maintenance.

Further Freedom of Information requests revealed that Sheffield Council had paid £700,000 in compensation to Amey for work delays caused by its decision to set up the Independent Tree Panel - whose expert recommendations to save trees were then rejected in 75% of cases.

Calling for an end to Sheffield’s rotten PFI contract, residents were keeping a close eye on Birmingham where Council bosses were fighting contractor Amey and the Department for Transport over funding and contract issues.

Taking legal action, Birmingham City Council forced Amey to terminate their £2.7 billion 25 year PFI highways contract in 2019, 16 years ahead of the contractual end date. Amey footed the £215 million bill.

Quick to dash Sheffield residents' post PFI visions, contract signatory, Cllr Jack Scott estimated that ending the Streets Ahead PFI contract with Amey early could cost Sheffield Council over £300 million.

[Click here to find out more about PFI Penalty Payments.](#)

PFI Payment Extension

In January 2018, Sheffield City Council attempted to quash claims by opposition council members that a proposed PFI payment extension would see taxpayers paying off the Streets Ahead PFI contract for an additional 20 years after it ends.

Council bosses hit back saying ‘a final decision had still not been made and, if approved by the council's overview and scrutiny management committee, it would not see any changes to the PFI contract’.

Sheffield Council said the proposal was a ‘technical accounting change’ which would see the council change how it repays internal finances and result in a £6 million saving next year - and similar savings in future years.

Sheffield Council also said the money could then be spent to avoid further cuts in social care and extending the repayment term would not attract any increased charges.

Following approval, Cllr Olivia Blake, the council's deputy leader and cabinet member for finance, said: "This decision is completely separate. It's not to do with Amey or the PFI contract - it's to do with our own internal finances.



The Sad Squirrel @TheSadS... · 15/01/2018 ...
 PRIVATE EYE "the chainsaws are still buzzing, with every cut damaging the council's credibility" #Sheffield #SaveSheffTrees #RottenBoroughs @SheffCouncil



Private Eye Magazine and 9 others

8 237 175



James Mitchinson @JayMitc... · 14/03/2018 ...
 Second Sheffield MP comes out to call for halt to tree-felling work in city as pressure grows on @SheffCouncil Thank you to @PaulBlomfieldMP and @LouHaigh yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/two-sheff... #SaveSheffTrees



11 89 119

Susan Unwin @sj_unwin

Met our new Labour MP Jared O'Mara this morning who confirmed his support to save Vernon Oak & other iconic street trees #SaveSheffTrees



4:44 AM - 12 Aug 2017

48 Retweets 87 Likes

Whether or not this decision was related to PFI 'catastrophic financial consequences', this extension means millions of pounds will continue being paid to Amey up to 2057, 20 years after the original end of the Streets Ahead highways contract.

Perhaps a contractor will service Sheffield's roads for free during this additional payment period.

[Click here to find out more about the PFI Payment Extension.](#)

Labour Pain

With ideological roots opposing privatisation, in 2017, the national Labour Party promised to end the use of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts and bring existing contracts back in-house, Labour shadow chancellor John McDonnell used his speech at the 2017 Labour Party conference in Brighton, to say:

'The scandal of PFI, launched by John Major, has resulted in huge, long-term costs for taxpayers while handing out enormous profits for some companies. Profits which are coming out of the budgets of our public services.'

With the watershed collapse of Carillion in January 2018, the political and ideological pressure on Sheffield Council from within Labour's own ranks was ramping up.

In Jan 2018, Sheffield Momentum, called for an end to the controversial tree felling programme issuing a statement opposing the PFI deal and urging the Labour council group to 'find a negotiated, less confrontational solution with residents and contractors'.

Individual Labour branches including Gleadless Valley [Jan 2018], Heeley [Feb 2018] and Broomhill & Sharrow Vale [Feb 2018] passed an emergency resolution publicly opposing PFI deals and calling for 'an immediate, mediated settlement to the felling of our street trees'.

The emergency resolution further stated that 'the actions of Amey have both failed the council's road improvement ambitions and undermined the reputation of Sheffield's environmental credentials'.

Park and Arbourthorne ward, home to despotic council leader Julie Dore and her PFI flag waving Labour councillors Jack Scott and Ben Miskell did not pass an emergency resolution.

In March 2018, calls from Louise Haigh MP [Sheffield Heeley] and Paul Blomfeld MP [Sheffield Central] for a pause in felling to allow for mediation between Sheffield council, Amey, and residents added to the political pressure.

It is worth noting, Jared O'Mara MP [Hallam 2017-2019] stood for election on a whim and was voted in following a protest vote to remove Nick Clegg MP [Hallam 2005-2017] following his coalition government's student fees fiasco.

O'Mara, not appropriately vetted by Sheffield Labour, broke parliamentary process by failing to make his maiden speech in

Robert Macfarlane @Ro... · 15/03/2018 ...
 "As many as 17,500 trees – half of the city's 36,000 trees – could be felled": Sheffield's transformation into "Stump City" continues, as does the arrest of peaceful protestors. Up to 30 police now attending tree fellings.



from Sheffield MPs urge council to pause tree felling
 The Guardian
 From theguardian.com

54 562 425

Fran G @limegreentrees · 13/03/2018 ...
 That's half the street trees in Sheffield due for the chop. What about the wildlife? What about air pollution? What about beauty? Is anyone listening? #TheWorldIsWatching #SaveSheffTrees



17 314 334

richardhawley @RichardHa... · 21/03/2018 ...
 17,500 trees = half of Sheffield's Street Trees are earmarked for the chop. Nearly 6,000 already gone. Please read, retweet, share and donate to the legal fees of the campaign if you can- click the link: goo.gl/k1nqvE #SaveSheffTrees



44 1.2K 1K

Neil Salter @NeilSalter4 · 09/08/2017 ...
 The big trees that are being felled had not failed, they were reaching there peak for helping the air, wildlife, and quality of life

2 14 20

the Houses of Parliament, did not hold any constituency surgeries and missed key Brexit votes. O'Mara also made false parliamentary expenses claims, using the ill-gained money to pay off debts to his Sheffield cocaine dealer. In 2023, O'Mara was found guilty on six counts of fraud and imprisoned for 4 years.

To his credit, in 2017, O'Mara did accept a petition signed by 11,000 people calling for Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn, to mediate. O'Mara also had a break from chasing white lines to take part in a Sheffield trees photo opportunity and was the third Sheffield MP to publicly call for an end to the tree felling.

Following O'Mara's stepping down in 2019, he was replaced by Olivia Blake MP [Hallam 2019-date].

Former Deputy Leader of Sheffield City Council [Walkley 2017-2019], married to Lewis Dagnall [temporary Sheffield Council Leader 2018 and cabinet member responsible for street trees from May 2018 to August 2019] and daughter to Baroness Judith Blake of Leeds [Leader of Leeds Council 2015-2021]. Olivia Blake, entrapped by conflict of interest and blind loyalty, failed to represent the concerns of her constituents, towing party line throughout.

Taking advantage of the electoral hype and media interest in the inaugural Sheffield City Region mayoral elections that took place on 3 May 2018, political campaign group 'No Stump City' routinely attended hustings events, raising questions, handing out leaflets and putting Sheffield street trees firmly on the regional political agenda.

[Click here to find out more about Labour Pain.](#)

FOI Contract Revelations - "17,500 Trees Must Be Felled"

In March 2018, following a series of laser focussed Freedom of Information [FOI] requests, the Sheffield tree campaign hit a major break through.

A FOI request from core campaigner Paul Selby and a subsequent ruling by the Information Commissioner's Office [ICO] forced Sheffield City Council to release partially un-redacted PFI contract documents. The contract documents revealed that "no less than 17,500 trees must be felled as part of the work to maintain the roads and pavements".

In a seismic moment, the campaign's theory that the Streets Ahead PFI contract contained a secret felling target and Sheffield City Council had signed away half of the city's street trees was, with one carefully worded Freedom of Information request, proved correct.

Following the "17,500" contractual revelation, The Sheffield Trades Union Council [TUC], passed a motion calling on the Sheffield Labour group to pursue "an immediate, mediated settlement to the felling of Sheffield street trees".

The TUC statement said the council should look to bring the highways maintenance work back in-house as soon as

Vernon Oak @SAVEDORET... · 08/03/2018 ...
 This morning's cartoon in @shftelegraph by GARY. #SaveSheffTrees #TheWorldIsWatching



8 183 175

Chris Packham @ChrisGP... · 31/05/2018 ...
 Do we really need to fell 17,500 mostly healthy trees in Sheffield? savesheffieldtrees.org.uk #saveshefftrees @saveshefftrees



146 1.1K 1.7K

Jeremy Barrell @JeremyD... · 23/06/2018 ...
 Paul Barton, a top UK tree expert, was a tree surveyor in Sheffield in 2012, & writes in the @ArbAssociation ARBmagazine: "The Sheffield Streets Ahead contract is providing a fascinating but depressing case study on how not to do urban forestry." #SaveSheffTrees #TreeTruths



Amey and Barton_Hyett

6 156 172

James Mitchinson @JayMitc... · 12/03/2018 ...
 The Yorkshire Post says: The man in charge of tree-felling in Sheffield has some serious explaining to do, as Information Commissioner's Office revelations mean his position is becoming increasingly untenable. yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/opinion/t... #SaveSheffTrees



24 268 264

possible. It further added Amey's actions had "both failed the council's road improvement ambitions and undermined the reputation of Sheffield's environmental credentials"

Not only were Sheffield City Council aware of the ruinous contractual target to fell half of Sheffield's 36,000 street trees, they had actively conspired, since the signing of the contract in 2012, to keep the target hidden from the people of Sheffield and the courts of law.

Chris Burn of the Yorkshire Post broke the story on the front page of the Yorkshire Post.

[Click here to access Freedom of Information Reports.](#)

Fake Documents and Courtroom Lies

With the Streets Ahead Five Year Tree Management Strategy, released in 2016, not aligning with ongoing tree felling operations, campaigners used Freedom of information requests, forcing Sheffield City Council to publish six of Amey's versions of the strategy to its website.

Sheffield City Council had initially claimed it had lost all copies.

When Amey's versions were scrutinised, Sheffield City Council's version of the document was found to include significant new information, including information on environmental stewardship and a section listing engineering solutions that it said would 'be considered as alternatives to felling street trees'.

In a staggering act of moral abandonment and courtroom perjury, it was revealed the Streets Ahead Five Year Tree Management Strategy document released by Sheffield City Council in 2016 was fake and produced internally with the intention of swaying political, legal and public opinion.

The fake Five Year Tree Management Strategy document was referenced in council debates, press releases, Independent Tree Panel assessments, the 2016 Judicial Review, High Court Injunction judgements and contempt of court proceedings.

The fake Five Year Tree Management Strategy document was also referenced in 2016 when Council Officer David Caulfield and Cllr Leigh Brammall secured the deployment of South Yorkshire Police onto the stump lined streets of Sheffield.

With serious people raising serious concerns as to why the council's document was different to the official Amey document, Sheffield City Council was once again surrounded by a pungent whiff of conspiracy and deception.

Quick to defend itself, Sheffield City Council spun further mistruths, claiming it had prepared its version: "In order to aid public understanding of the documents submitted under the Streets Ahead contract, a simpler, more accessible version of the 2016 'Five Year Tree Management Strategy' document was produced and published."

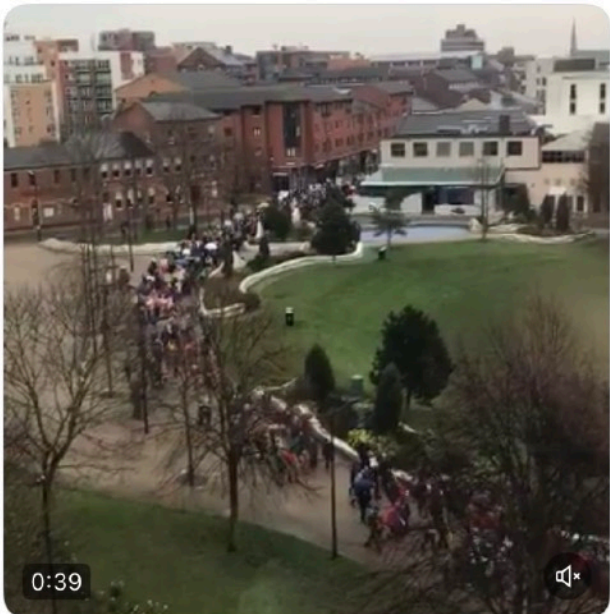
Having referenced the document in the High Court, Council

The Sad Squirrel @The... · 23/03/2018
 Replying to @TheSadSquirrel
 From Private Eye to The New York Times.. A collection of essential news articles investigating the secret £2.2bn 25 year PFI deal to chop down and replace 17,500 #Sheffield street trees. #SaveSheffTrees x.com/i/moments/9312...

Dino Sofos @dinosofos · 26/03/2018
 BREAK: The BBC understands there will be an immediate pause in tree felling by Sheffield City Council and private contractor Amey. Other tree maintenance work will continue during the pause. More to follow. Tune in to @daily_politics at 12.45 on BBC 2. #shefftrees

Trees for Cities @TreesforCi... · 26/03/2018
 .@SheffCouncil's announcement to pause felling of street trees is timely after the @WoodlandTrust and Trees for Cities presented evidence to the council questioning its tree felling assessments. Read our full statement here: ow.ly/W53C30j9T9U

Meryem @mrymgrlll · 07/04/2018
 Is this get off my tree protest march?? #sheffield #bigcrowd #SaveSheffTrees @TheSadSquirrel



Save Sheffield Trees · 07/04/2018
 Tree campaigners dismissed by Labour as a tiny, out of touch group of wealthy homeowners. Today, hundreds took to the streets to prove them wrong. From all walks of life, from all over Sheffield. Labour couldn't be more wrong. #SaveSheffTrees



Officer Paul Billington, instrumental in launching council led legal actions against Sheffield residents and filing the injunction, provided a witness statement to the High Court in which he said:

"6000 trees were to be removed in the city and replaced with saplings' adding 'for the avoidance of doubt, the vast majority of street trees in Sheffield are being retained [30,000 out of 36,000]."

Sheffield City Council's fake Five Year Tree Management Strategy document was knowingly produced, signed off, distributed and referenced in the courts of law by a core group of elected Sheffield Labour Councillors and non elected Council Officers including Paul Billington, presumably with oversight from the Sheffield City Council legal team.

[Click here to find out more about the Fake Streets Ahead Five Year Tree Management Strategy and Courtroom Lies.](#)

The Second Pause

Finally, against a backdrop of highly damaging FOI contractual revelations, unrelenting injunction defying direct action, widespread civic disobedience, community resistance, controversial and excessive policing, spiralling council legal fees, political opposition, high level criticism from environmental and industry groups, intense media scrutiny, high impact social media campaigns and an ever increasing number of arrests...

Sheffield City Council and Amey paused the PFI felling for a second time on 26th March 2018.

[Click here to find out more about The Second Pause.](#)

'Get Off My Tree' Protest March

Galvanised, at 10am on Saturday 17 April 2018, campaigners and Sheffield residents assembled for a large scale city centre protest march billed as 'Get Off My Tree'.

Attracting huge crowds armed with kazoos, whistles, bells, drums, tambourines and DIY protest banners, the 'Get off My Tree' march was awash with colour, noise and tree saving energy.

After a short march around town hall, campaigners congregated in Barkers Pool outside Sheffield City Hall, where guest speakers Jarvis Cocker [Pulp], Prof Matthews Flinders [Professor of Politics at University of Sheffield], Rob McBride [Tree Hunter], Paul Turpin, Brian Mosley, Ruth Hubbard and Dave Dillner [STAG] took to the steps of Sheffield City Hall to address angry residents and campaign members.

Following the 'Get Off My Tree' protest march, a benefit gig organised by 'Stump Up Sheffield' was held at Sheffield City Hall. This sold-out event featured performances by Jarvis Cocker, Richard Hawley, John McClure [Reverend and The

Chris Burn @ChrisBurn... · 22/06/2018
 Exclusive in Saturday's @yorkshirepost: The Forestry Commission has launched an investigation into whether the felling of thousands of street trees in Sheffield has been carried out illegally.



18 replies, 194 retweets, 254 likes

James Mitchinson @Jay... · 09/05/2018
 Sheffield councillor overseeing controversial tree felling scheme throws in the towel. But campaigners won't be fooled if the authority thinks it simply needs a fall guy to distract from its arrogant madness. yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/sheffield...



8 replies, 62 retweets, 89 likes

AminataKeita @C... · 08/03/2023
 Sheffield Star 8/3/23. Cllr Fox says of Lodge "He's done a lot of wonderful things over the past five years representing his residents in Birley, he's done a lot with the war memorial trees"
 Indeed he did, here he is with one of them
 @SheffCouncil, @stagnews2022
 #saveshefftrees



2 replies, 10 retweets, 25 likes, 854 views

Makers] and The Everly Pregnant brothers [Don't Chop 'em Down], raising much needed funds to cover continued legal fees.

[Click here to find out more about the 'Get Off My Tree' March.](#)

Illegal Felling - A Decisive Blow

With chainsaws silenced, contractual felling targets revealed and fake contract documents exposed, in April 2018, HM Forestry Commission struck a decisive blow, initiating legal proceedings against Sheffield City Council and Amey, claiming they were engaged in "illegal felling activity".

Sheffield City Council and Amey, backed into a perilous legal cul-de-sac, had just two options - resume the planned PFI felling programme and face HM Forestry Commission in court or act in accordance with the newly issued Forestry Commission Operations Note 51 and seek a new licence to exceed the Forestry Commission's permitted felling quotas.

For the first time throughout the campaign, Sheffield City Council and Amey, opted not to pursue legal action and announced they were ceasing all felling with immediate effect.

Having set out to crush the tree campaign, it was now Sheffield City Council who was crumbling under the weight of their contractual lies and industrial scale environmental destruction.

[Click here to find out more about the Forestry Commission's Intervention.](#)

Bryan Lodge - Council Resignation

In May 2018, Bryan 'Hollow and Rotten' Lodge, the councillor leading Sheffield's controversial tree-felling programme quit the role. Councillor Bryan Lodge had been cabinet member for Environment and Street Scene at the city council for two years.

Deflecting, Bryan Lodge said 'nasty and personal abuse' had been directed at his team. In a Facebook post, Mr Lodge - who remained a councillor - said: 'Never let the truth get lost in the aggressive, nasty and personal abuse directed at us'.

In a final show of blind PFI unity, Bryan Lodge said 'We need to get the people of Sheffield, all the people, back on board to realise the benefits of this biggest ever investment in the infrastructure of the city'.

Bryan Lodge also said the last two years had been "challenging". Julie Dore, Council Leader, added: "Over the last several weeks, Bryan has been expressing concern about his ability to continue in his role because of the impact on his family and his own personal health and well-being." She said he sustained "an enormous amount of personal abuse".

However, Green councillor Alison Teal, who herself had been arrested during a tree protest, said Mr Lodge had "profoundly mishandled" the tree-felling programme and "entirely lost the confidence of Sheffield people".

James Mitchinson @JayMit... · 06/06/2018 ...
 'Happy' 😊 to jail peaceful protestors: Sheffield Leader Julie Dore 'positively agrees' that #SaveSheffTrees campaigners must lose their liberty having disagreed with her bid to rid the city of half its mature trees.



YORKSHIRE POST

Sheffield Council leader 'positively agreed' with authority's effort to send tree campaigners to jail

23 178 129

Liz Roberts @LizzieRoberts · 05/06/2018 ...
 Little song of solidarity from the #SaveSheffTrees campaigners outside court. 4 people are facing a High Court judge accused of breaking an injunction by @SheffCouncil



7 38 52

Mark @M_cakeman · 20/04/2018 ...
 Tree protests: extra cost of policing for ONE MONTH: £47000
 (Additional to officers and resources diverted from normal duties)
 Number of trees felled: THIRTEEN
 NONE listed as dangerous, ALL could have been saved with low cost engineering solutions already paid for in PFI contract



11 202 170

Following Bryan Lodge's departure, Cllr Lewis Dagnall rose from the back benches and stepped in as a temporary replacement. Immediately, Dagnall began seeking 'compromise from all sides' spending his first day in post, 17 May 2018, meeting campaigners under the spring canopy of Vernon Oak.

[Click here to find out more about Bryan Lodge's Resignation.](#)

Contempt of Court Hearing [Brooke/Compin/Crump/Grace]

Reeling from the outing of their secret contractual felling target and interventions by the Information Commissioner's Office and HM Forestry Commission. In June 2018, Sheffield City Council launched further Contempt of Court Proceedings against four core campaign members.

During a 3-day trial at Sheffield High Court, Sheffield City Council alleged that the defendants had breached the injunction obtained by the council in July 2017 that prevented protesters entering safety zones set up around trees being felled. The injunction also outlawed people encouraging or facilitating anyone else to break the injunction, including through social media.

Yaaser Vanderman appeared as sole counsel for Sheffield City Council during the 3-day hearing and Paul Powlesland, Barrister & founder of Lawyers for Nature, once again represented Sheffield tree campaigners.

In his judgment, dated 7 June 2018, Justice Males found Simon Crump, Fran Grace and Benoit Compin in contempt on all counts.

Both Simon Crump and Benoit Compin were sentenced to two months' imprisonment suspended for 12 months but decided no further punishment was appropriate for the third defendant, Fran Grace, a retired teacher.

Judgement was reserved in the case of the fourth protester, Paul Brooke.

In a further bid to crush dissent, It was later revealed Sheffield City Council had turned the screw on arrested campaigners, pressurising them to sign overbearing legal undertakings to avoid further court action and extortionate legal costs.

Leaving a dark stain on Sheffield's history, it is indefensible that Council CEO John Mothersole, Council Officers Paul Billington, David Caulfield and Sheffield City Council Labour leaders Julie Dore, Bryan Lodge and Terry Fox not only sanctioned these legal actions, but 'positively agreed' with the authority's effort to send Sheffield's tree defending residents to jail.

[Click here to find out more about this Contempt of Court Hearing.](#)

South Yorkshire Police in Retreat

In June 2018, following cessation of felling, Dr Alan Billings, South Yorkshire Police Crime Commissioner, ordered an



Louise Wilcockson · 31/08/2018

For anyone who missed this 2day: Sheffield tree activists held on false grounds, police watchdog says theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/a... @helenpidd @thesadsquirrel @BiancaJagger @DillnerDave @alisonclareteal @natalieben @patrick_barkham @deankirby @dinosofos #SaveSheffTrees #SaveSheffield

2 35 49



Sally Goldsmith · 16/12/2018

#SaveSheffTrees friends: shall we just breathe a minute? Tell ourselves, "Hey, we did this!" ? Campaigners forget to congratulate themselves sometimes. Still lots to do, still lots of trees to save but remember this time last year? SCC found they couldn't beat us. We are strong.



Vernon Oak and 8 others

7 39 197



Calvin Payne @calvinm... · 15/05/2018

Compromise over tree felling cannot happen with a punitive High Court injunction in place. Stop the threats. Cancel the injunction.

19 29



Douglas Johnson @Douglas... · 21/06/2018

High Court rules that #tree campaigner Paul Brooke was not in breach of an injunction. His genuine and honest belief in defending a woman from Sheffield Council's security staff was a defence. #SaveSheffTrees

Judicial Office @Judi... · 21/06/2018

Judgment: Sheffield City Council -v- Paul Brooke (contempt of court, tree felling protest) bit.ly/2ywpz6u



2 21 34

independent report to assess the controversial policing of tree felling incidents.

The report concluded Sheffield City Council had left South Yorkshire Police 'in the eye of the storm' and that Sheffield City Council and Amey, had "become dependent on the heightened level" of police involvement.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct [IOPC] concluded all arrests were unjustified prompting all criminal charges and suspended sentences against campaign members to be dropped. The Crown Prosecution Service [CPS] concluded all protests were carried out 'within the law'.

In February 2019, seven campaigners arrested between November 2016 and February 2017 were awarded wrongful arrest payouts totalling £24,300.

[Click here to find out more about the South Yorkshire Police in Retreat](#)

Mediated Talks

The Freedom of Information contractual revelations and HM Forestry Commission's claims of 'illegal felling activity' stopped Sheffield City Council and Amey in their environmentally destructive path.

Stumped, Sheffield City Council entered into mediated talks with STAG and a fast track PFI policy review paved the way for a new era of long term collaborative working.

The first mediated talks began in September 2018, with the Bishop of Sheffield facilitating discussions between the Council, Amey, and Sheffield Tree Action Group.

In December 2018, a joint statement was released announcing a commitment to work together on solutions for remaining trees, halting further felling during the process.

[Click here to find out more about the Mediated Talks.](#)

Contempt of Court Hearing [Brooke]

In complete odds with this new found spirit of reconciliation and collaboration, Sheffield City Council continued to pursue core tree campaigners through the courts of law.

A third committal hearing was held in June 2018 for Paul Brooke who had breached the Injunction during the battle of Meersbrook Park Road.

Following a three day hearing, Sheffield Council's application to send an Paul Brooke to jail for contempt of court was dismissed by Justice Males with his ruling highlighting the chaotic scenes which unfolded between security guards and campaigners on a normally quiet city street.

Campaigner Paul Brooke, co-chair of STAG, had been accused of breaking the High Court injunction preventing protesters

Alison Teal @alison... · 27/11/2017
 This is one scene of several acts of brutality on Sheffield residential streets today. A person tried to protect a tree from felling and was tackled to the ground and restrained. @SheffCouncil & @Ameyplc are sanctioning these tactics to fell mostly healthy trees. What next?



James Mitchinson and 7 others

40 510 248

Chris Packham @ChrisG... · 09/06/2018
 The words of an expert . . .“This is the worst industrial-scale felling of good quality urban trees that I have ever seen anywhere in the world.” Phillip Van Wassenaer, top urban tree consultant . savesheffieldtrees.org.uk #saveshefftrees @SaveSheffTrees



93 2.1K 2.5K

Robert Macfarlane @RobG... · 12/03/2021
 What a turn in the Sheffield Tree story. A city council that once unnecessarily felled 1000s of street trees is now sharing £183k for new plantings & creation of community orchards. An urban forest is regrowing. Protest *can* work. 🙌🙌 the campaigners.



From yorkshirepost.co.uk

21 256 964

going inside ‘safety zones’ around trees due to be felled.

But Justice Males dismissed the application on the grounds that Mr Brooke had attempted to enter a zone with a “genuine albeit mistaken” belief that a female protester was being injured by security guards attempting to remove her from the area around a tree on Meersbrook Park Road.

Highlighting further examples of council and Amey sanctioned violence towards campaigners, Justice Males said the incident on 22 January 2018 had happened on a day of “considerable tension”, shortly after a security guard had thrown a punch towards another campaigner in a scuffle.

Following the ruling, Mr Brooke said: “Apart from being relieved, I feel vindicated. I told the council in advance of the court case that I took the actions that I took in defence of another and that I was a good and honest citizen. The council decided to proceed against me anyway. It would appear that Justice Males has considered the facts and has decided that my actions were based on an honestly held belief that an assault was taking place.”

At the time of the incident, the use of security guards hired by Amey to help enforce the injunction by removing protesters from safety zones using “reasonable force” had only been in place for around a week. In his 20 page ruling, Justice Males said the use of any force by security guards “was – and perhaps still is – highly controversial”

[Click here to find out more about this Contempt of Court Hearing.](#)

Injunction Extension

In July 2018, Sheffield City Council went back to the High Court in Leeds and extended the city-wide injunction for a further 18 months, until 25th January 2020.

The original injunction, issued in August 2017, aimed to prevent protesters from entering "safety zones" around trees.

The extension adjusted the terms to outlaw direct action tactics like geckoing, bunnying and squirrelling. Tree campaigners did however negotiate revised wording ensuring the injunction didn't cover private property, and allowed for peaceful, slow walking delays.

Sheffield City Council sought to recoup the cost of extending the Injunction extension from the named campaign members.

[Click here to find out more about the Injunction Extension.](#)

Change in Sheffield

Despite Sheffield City Council's continued high cost and morally bankrupt legal manoeuvres, Sheffield's political, social and environmental landscape continued to shift, bringing with it a hard won renewal of care and respect for Sheffield's street trees and a commitment to planting many more trees.

Sara Venn she/her · 10/07/2019
Brilliant news and proof that people can and do make enormous change



Hundreds of Sheffield trees to be saved after c...

From itv.com

11 65 233

Sally Goldsmith · 27/09/2018
A year ago there was a beautiful curve of 12 lime trees on Chatsworth Rd in Sheffield doing no one any harm. Now there are 6 - one still on felling list. But today, after 3 yrs there are talks with us. About time - the power of activism and disobedience #SaveSheffTrees



Susan Unwin and 7 others

18 120 234

Rebecca Speight @Bec... · 08/03/2019
Watching the Sheffield Street Trees Action Group receiving their award last year (and trying not to cry!) #ILookLikeAForester #saveshefftrees @WoodlandTrust



6 14 62

Chris Burn @ChrisBurn_P... · 14/07/2021
Symbolic moment in the Sheffield tree-felling debacle - "The Streets Ahead clause requiring the felling of 17,500 street trees will be removed":



Sheffield Council to remove controversial target...

From yorkshirepost.co.uk

4 37 71

In December 2018, Sheffield City Council, AMEY and Sheffield Tree Action Group completed the development of a new fit for purpose tree strategy.

Sheffield's 'Trees and Woodlands Strategy 2018-2033' provides an agreed and sustainable framework to build and restore the city's reputation as the Outdoor City and includes planting 100,000 extra trees and replacing removed trees on a two-for-one basis.

This strategy has resulted in Sheffield winning the 'Tree City of the World' award in 2022 and gaining 'Tree City of the World Status' in 2025.

[Click here to find out more about Sheffield's Trees and Woodlands Strategy.](#)

In 2019, the Sheffield Tree Charter further deepened collaborative ties, with Sheffield Tree Action Group, Green City Heritage, the Woodland Trust, and Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust uniting with Sheffield City Council (SCC) and contractors Amey to form the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership.

In May 2021, the 'Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Strategy' was published as a supplement to the 'Sheffield Trees and Woodlands Strategy 2018-33'.

The Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Strategy created a purpose made framework for managing street trees, focusing on retaining street trees where possible by using a combination of highway engineering solutions, enhanced monitoring and maintenance, and by making decisions on the removal and replacement of trees on a case-by-case basis.

In February 2023, Sheffield City Council finally removed the ruinous and long hidden 'No less than 17,500' felling target from the PFI contract.

Also in 2023, Sheffield City Council, working with the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership and Trees for Streets, launched a charity led initiative allowing residents to sponsor additional tree planting in their local streets and parks.

Residents can sponsor a Street Tree outside their house, or sponsor a Celebration Tree (sometimes known as a memorial tree) in one of Sheffield's beautiful parks or recreation grounds. Residents can also organise a crowdfund campaign to green an entire street. Businesses looking to create a lasting impact in their local communities are also invited take part.

[Click here to sponsor a tree!](#)

In 2024 Sheffield City Council launched the Sheffield Tree Equity Scheme in an effort to address historical imbalances in canopy cover across the city.

The initiative began with a successful launch in Darnall Ward during the 2024/2025 planting season and has been extended to plant more trees in other lower-canopy areas of Sheffield like Southey, Longley, and Parson Cross throughout 2026.

Using a data-driven approach, The Woodland Trust's Tree Equity Score map has helped Sheffield City Council and

Alison Teal · 25/06/2023
 "By the time the felling was stopped in 2018, about 6K trees had gone, but the collective actions of the campaigners ultimately saved more than 11K trees from the axe — one of the most successful environmental protests of all time." @ChrisBurn_Post



My seven years reporting on Sheffield's tree sc...

From thetimes.com

2 48 123 2.8K

Robert Macfarlane @RobG... · 12/03/2021
 What a turn in the Sheffield Tree story. A city council that once unnecessarily felled 1000s of street trees is now sharing £183k for new plantings & creation of community orchards. An urban forest is regrowing. Protest *can* work. 🙌🙌 the campaigners.

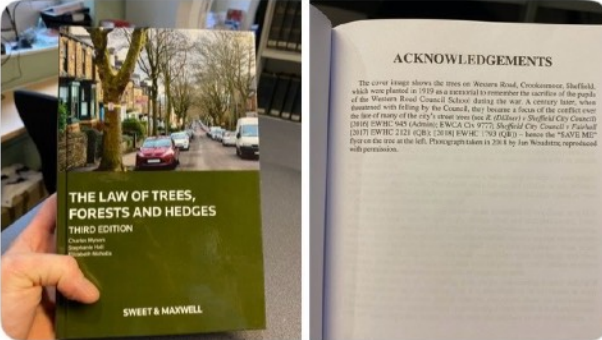


'Things have changed dramatically' in Sheffield...

From yorkshirepost.co.uk

21 258 964

Paul Powlesland @p... · 12/04/2023
 The new ed. of key legal text on trees has a picture of Sheffield trees on the cover & acknowledgement about the dispute. In 5 years, it's gone from local campaigners brutalised in the street for protecting trees to recognition as the archetypal & justified tree-saving campaign.



THE LAW OF TREES, FORESTS AND HEDGES
 THIRD EDITION
 SWEET & MAXWELL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The cover image shows the trees on Western Road, Crichwood, Sheffield, which were planted in 1919 and felled to make way for the new A169 bypass, when the Sheffield City Council, during the war, a century later, when the day of the city's urban woodland, Sheffield City Council, placed the trees on the site in 1919. Photograph taken in 2018 by Ian Worsley, reproduced with permission.

12 143 409 22K

Chris Burn @ChrisBurn_Post · 14/10/2020
 New - Bombshell Local Government Ombudsman investigation finds Sheffield Council misrepresented expert advice, acted with a "lack of honesty" and misled the public over its controversial strategy to fell thousands of street trees in the city. yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/politics/...

21 314 315

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust identify where trees are most needed to improve air quality, reduce flood risk, and enhance well-being.

Local residents, schools, and volunteers are encouraged to participate in planting days to foster local ownership and engagement with their surrounding environment.

[Click here to get involved in the Sheffield Tree Equity Scheme.](#)

[Click here to find out about Change in Sheffield.](#)

Change Across the UK

The Sheffield tree campaign not only had a profound impact on public discourse and policy within Sheffield, but also brought change across the UK.

In June 2019, recognising that trees and woodlands were under increasing pressure, particularly in urban areas, the UK Government and The Forestry Commission appointed Sir William Worsley as the first National Tree Champion.

A key commitment of the UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, the National Tree Champion is tasked with conserving and expanding England's woodlands and urban trees and spearheading the planting of 11 million new trees across the nation and preventing the unnecessary felling of street trees.

Sir William Worsley said:

"I am delighted to be appointed as the Government's Tree Champion. Trees and woods are an important part of my life, as they are to local communities. They transform our landscapes, improve our health and wellbeing and help grow the economy."

[Click here to find out more about the National Tree Champion.](#)

Significantly, the Sheffield tree campaign was also instrumental in bringing about an amendment to the Highways Act 1980 via the Environment Act 2021, which now requires local authorities in England to consult the public before felling street trees.

In November 2023, The Environment Act 2021 inserted a new section, 96A, into the Highways Act 1980, placing a duty on local highway authorities in England to consult members of the public before felling a street tree on an urban road. Authorities must also follow guidance issued by the Secretary of State on how to discharge this duty.

The change to Environment Act and Highways Act is a direct consequence of the widespread public opposition against the felling of thousands of mature street trees in Sheffield as part of the Streets Ahead PFI contract.

Through their battle to have their voices heard, the Sheffield tree campaign gave a voice to every uk resident, helping to prevent any future rogue council following in Sheffield City Council's arboreally destructive footsteps.



Paul Powlesland @p... · 20/06/2023
 And there we have it- a full admission & apology that Sheffield City Council were completely in the wrong over the tree felling saga. This doesn't, of course, bring the trees back nor undo the violence that was inflicted on the brave activists who were in the right all along 🙏

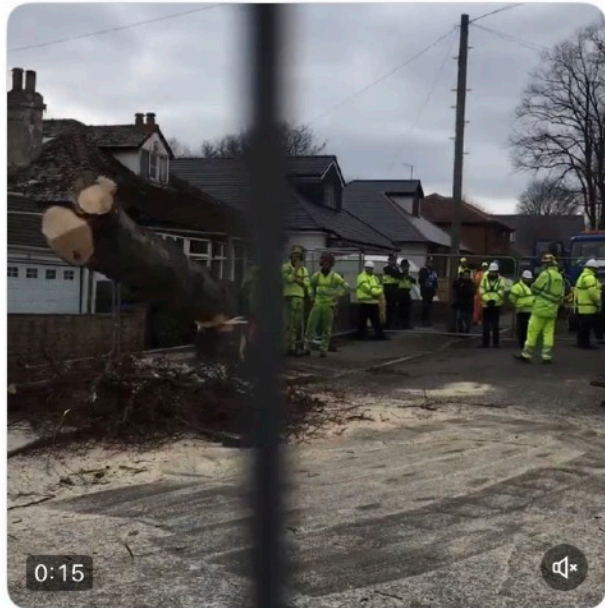
Sheffield City Council · 20/06/2023
 We have issued our apology to all residents of Sheffield, and beyond, for our actions during the street trees dispute.
 Please see it here: sheffield.gov.uk/sites/default/...



28 552 1.4K 173K



Sally Goldsmith · 14/04/2023
 22nd March 2018 and my anger at the last tree they felled on Chatsworth Rd, on last day of felling. They determinedly came for trees 17 times. We saved one. @SheffCouncil found to be incompetent, dishonest and bullying in Lowcock Report - yet still no resignations.



11 132 231 15K



Chris Burn @ChrisBurn_Post · 06/03/2023
 The truth at long, long last - Sheffield Council set out on a flawed plan to cut down half of the city's street trees then spent years trying to mislead and gaslight people that wasn't the case. An utter disgrace.



From yorkshirepost.co.uk
 17 183 331 44K

[Click here to find out about Change Across The UK.](#)

The Lowcock Inquiry and Council Apologies

By September 2020, the third of three Local Government Ombudsman reports was published finding the council had acted with a 'lack of transparency, openness and on occasion, honesty'.

In November 2020, a Freedom of Information request found that Sheffield City Council had attempted to derail the FOI process through the inclusion of 'Not for FOI' in the subject line of emails.

The ensuing community led 'It's Our City' referendum in May 2021 brought about the dismantling of Sheffield City Council's controversial and despotic strong arm cabinet leader model, replacing it with a modern committee system.

In 2021, under new CEO Kate Josephs, Sheffield City Council announced an Inquiry chaired by the former Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs at the UN, Sir Mark Lowcock.

In late 2021, Sheffield City Council paid a further £150,000 to a legal firm to facilitate an Inquiry into the scandal.

In March 2023, the Inquiry concluded that Sheffield City Council's behaviour 'amounted to a serious and sustained failure of strategic leadership' and was 'dishonest'.

In June 2023, following Inquiry findings, Sheffield City Council issued a full open apology to all residents of Sheffield, and beyond, for Sheffield City Council's actions during the street trees dispute. Campaigners were vindicated.

In February 2024, Sheffield City Council admitted to misleading the courts of law on two separate occasions and further admitted to a lack of contractual clarity.

Regarding the fake Five Year Plan, the Inquiry concluded:

"The fact that this cannot be attributed to an individual should not take away from the gravity of the court being misled by a document produced by the Council."

The Inquiry also found "that the council's explanation for the existence of this document "does not provide a satisfactory explanation for all of the differences between versions" as it did not explain why the document numbering was inconsistent, the additional list of engineering solutions, nor did it say that the document is a simplified version.

In July 2025, Sheffield City Council issued a further full apology for its "heavy-handed" and intimidatory legal threats against four tree campaigners.

Over £413,000 was spent on legal actions against protesters, including £109,287 for defending a 2016 judicial review; £226,907 for injunctions and £77,000 for committal hearings.

Sheffield's City Council's legal bill, built on fake documents and contractual lies, was a criminal waste of public money.

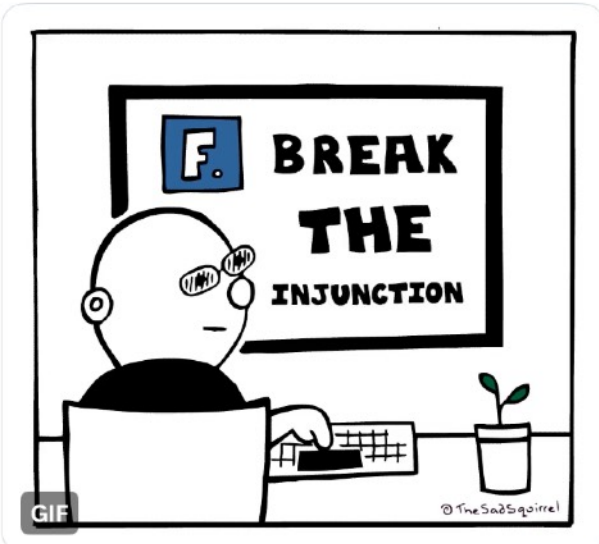
Judgester @Judgester142 · 16/02/2017
 @Ameypic @SheffCouncil @SheffTreeAction
 #SaveSheffTrees This is what loving your neighbourhood looks like. Stop destroying our trees please



4 104 114



The Sad Squirrel @TheS... · 31/10/2017
 Calvin Payne to be sentenced on Friday after posting message on Facebook inciting others to BREAK THE INJUNCTION! #SaveSheffTrees #Sheffield



11 81 58

Neil Meadows @Neilythere74 · 15/05/2018
 The injunction taken out on #sheffhero's was based on lies and therefore unlawful. Peaceful Protectors had their rights of free speech taken away. #EHRC 10 & 11. #SaveSheffTrees #PowerToThePeaceful

Calvin Payne @calvinm... · 15/05/2018
 Compromise over tree felling cannot happen with a punitive High Court injunction in place. Stop the threats. Cancel the injunction.

1 7 10

The costly dispute over Sheffield trees lasted for several years. As Sir Mark Lowcock concluded:

“The Sheffield Trees dispute did significant harm. Thousands of healthy trees were lost. Many more could have been. Sheffield’s reputation was damaged. Public trust and confidence in the Council was undermined. It has not been fully rebuilt. People on all sides suffered anxiety, stress, injuries and wider physical and mental health problems.”

Despite this harm, the collective actions of all who took part in the Sheffield tree campaign, confirm the power of community collaboration, peaceful direct action, civic disobedience and creative grass roots campaigning.

The Inquiry further concluded, “without the campaign, Sheffield City Council would have delivered their ruinous contract and Sheffield would have lost many more thousands of healthy street trees.”

In May 2023, Sheffield City Council commissioned a plaque, acknowledging the significance of the Street Trees Campaign and the wrongs committed by the Council in Sheffield between 2012 and 2018.

The Council motion said, “It will serve to recognise those who fought for our environmental heritage and were vindicated.”

The plaque, with artwork by Sheffield based illustrator and author, Lydia Monks reads:

“In recognition of the courageous campaigners who saved thousands of street trees from wrongful felling by Sheffield City Council, and as a reminder to all that such failures in leadership must never happen again. 2012-2018”

The plaque, to be installed in March 2026, will be displayed in the front lobby of Sheffield Town Hall alongside the Kinder Scout Mass Trespass memorial plaque.

[Find out more about the Public Inquiry and Council Apologies](#)

Unfinished Business - Cancel Calvin’s Conviction!

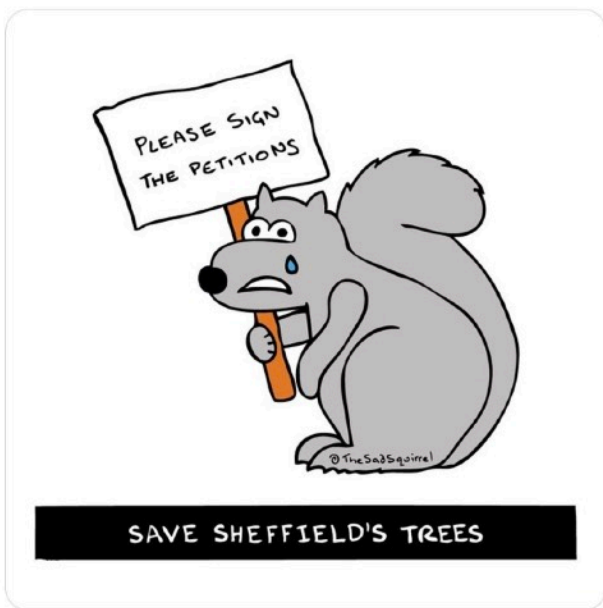
Despite IOPC and CPS judgements quashing all tree related convictions, as of March 2026, Calvin Payne continues to hold an active conviction for breach of injunction.

Having used fake documents to secure the High Court injunction, Sheffield City Council should immediately cancel Calvin Payne’s conviction, repay all associated legal costs, pay overly generous compensation, apologise and ceremoniously exchange his prosecution for the keys to the city - quick sharp!

Sheffield City Council’s mendacious efforts to prosecute residents using aggressive and perjury laced legal means warrants further criminal investigation.

[Click here for more information about Calvin’s conviction.](#)

The Sad Squirrel @TheSad... · 25/01/2017
 PLEASE SIGN THE PETITIONS. Help stop AMEY & #Sheffield City Council cutting down our trees. [savesheffieldtrees.org.uk/petitions/](https://www.savesheffieldtrees.org.uk/petitions/) #SaveSheffTrees #GTOS17



Jeremy Corbyn and 2 others

103 2.3K 1.2K

Jack Scott @Jack_Scott · 27/01/2017
 we have planted 50k new trees and created 14 new woodlands + More highway trees at end of this replacement programme

15 2 7

The Sad Squirrel @TheSadSquirrel
 'LEST WEE FORGET' @scctreetsahead @SheffCouncil @AmeyPLC @jack_scott @laboursheffield #SaveSheffTrees #GTOS17 #ww1 savesheffieldtrees.org.uk/petitions/



Amey and 8 others

10:38 · 27/01/2017

3 58 54 1

The Sad Squirrel @The... · 09/02/2017
 WHOSE TREES? Help stop @Ameyplc & @SheffCouncil cutting down Sheffield's trees. #SaveSheffTrees #SaveOurTrees #Trees [savesheffieldtrees.org.uk/petitions/](https://www.savesheffieldtrees.org.uk/petitions/)



18 533 296

The Sad Squirrel - Throwing Nuts, Hitting Targets

In December 2016, angered by the sight and sound of the senseless PFI felling, outraged by the dawn raid on Rustlings Road and gobsmacked by the environmentally illiterate comments from antagonistic councillors Jack Scott and Neale Gibson on twitter - The Sad Squirrel anonymously and independently, set about launching a flurry of retaliatory cartoons at Sheffield's out of depth council and profiteering PFI partner Amey.

Quickly gaining twitter traction, our pinned Sad Squirrel tweet [Jan 2017], calling for people to 'Please Sign the Petitions #SaveSheffTrees' gained over 2.3K retweets, hit nearly half a million impressions and prompted a surge in petition signatories.

Tagging Sheffield City Council, Amey and national Labour twitter accounts, it wasn't just The Sad Squirrel's twitter notifications going ping.

In response to this fast moving tweet, cabinet member and contract signatory Jack Scott made his trademark 'NIMBY' and 'No less green' comments. Triggering a twitter pile-on, many Sheffield residents and Sad Squirrel supporters took the opportunity to vent their outrage towards Cllr Jack Scott.

Jack Scott's calls for fellow councillor Neale Gibson to join the online affray were noticeably ignored.

Hitting back against Jack Scott's politically and environmentally illiterate comments, The Sad Squirrel replied with a cartoon depicting a grinning Amey urinating on the stump of a Western Road WWI memorial tree - Lest Wee Forget! This was promptly followed by a cartoon depicting Amey planning to flatten Sheffield's iconic hills.

Rattled, chewing the bait and keen to get his grip on the excessive #SaveSheffTrees twitter noise and this pesky Squirrel, Councillor Jack Scott sent The Sad Squirrel a direct message offering to meet.

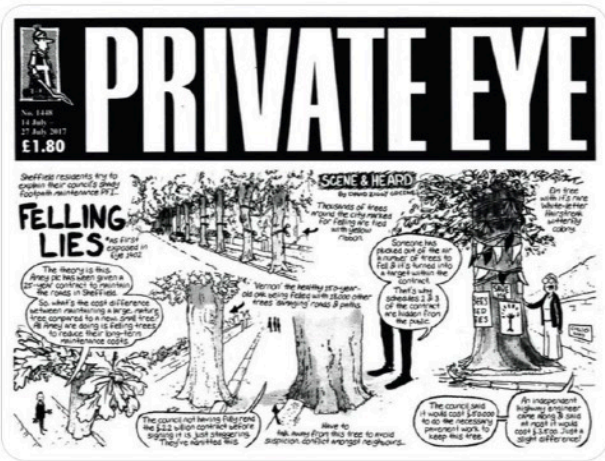
Leveraging this baited interaction, The Sad Squirrel opened the doors to Sheffield Town Hall, anonymously brokering the first protestor vs council meeting in February 2017.

At the meeting, calamitous councillor - Jack Scott, a signatory on the PFI contract, echoed his combative Twitter spiel, throwing NIMBY accusations and declaring Sheffield would be greener at the end of the contract.

When questioned, Jack Scott denied there was a hidden contractual felling target but openly admitted to The Sad Squirrel representative and two members of the formidable Sheffield Tree Action Group [Graham T, Justin Buxton], that he had not read the contract in full and had only read extracts on a long-haul flight to Australia!

Smelling ineptitude, dishonesty and complicity, The Sad Squirrel forged ahead, furiously bashing twitter buttons, sharing front line campaign updates, promoting petitions, lobby liking to build support, hate liking to annoy perpetrators,

The Sad Squirrel @TheSad... · 16/10/2017
 PRIVATE EYE "Vernon the healthy 150 year old oak being felled with 18,000 other trees 'damaging' roads & paths." #Sheffield #SaveSheffTrees



Private Eye Magazine and 8 others
 50 1.1K 797

The Sad Squirrel @TheSadS... · 15/08/2017
 EVICTION NOTICE
 by @PrivateEyeNews cartoonist 'Jonesy'
 #Sheffield #SaveSheffTrees #JudgementDay



Chris Packham and 8 others
 8 289 203

Everly Pregnant Brothers
 27 Sep 2017 ·
Don't Cut Em Down
 Someone has put together a video all about what's been happening with Sheffield S...see more



Caroline Briggs and 1.7K others 279K Views
 1.7K 541 3.6K

The Sad Squirrel @TheS... · 27/09/2017
 DON'T CUT 'EM DOWN
 A turbulent road trip through the #PFI controlled streets of #Sheffield.
 #SaveSheffTrees #Lab17



85 1.3K 938

tweeting news articles, building networks, feeding information to influential followers and sharing high impact protest cartoons.

Blocked by multiple local politicians, council members and Sheffield Momentum, The Sad Squirrel was proving an irritable presence to the powers that presided over Sheffield Town Hall.

Throughout the campaign The Sad Squirrel and Jack Scott continued a lengthy, bait filled conversation using twitter direct messaging.

In August 2017, Private Eye cartoonist and investigative journalist David 'Ziggy' Greene dropped a direct message in The Sad Squirrel's inbox.

Initially requesting information, a few days later The Sad Squirrel was driving Ziggy on a tour of Sheffield's most iconic threatened street trees, meeting core STAG members along the way.

The resulting 'Felling Lies - Scene and Heard' cartoon editorial highlighted environmental impacts, hidden contractual felling targets, extortionate PFI maintenance costs and featured some of Sheffield's most notable trees including Vernon Oak, Chelsea Rd Elm and Rivelin Valley's lime tree avenue.

Featuring in Private Eye no 1448, 'Felling Lies' was shared widely on social media and in print, increasing campaign reach and adding pressure on an already entrenched council.

Distributing high impact media to a fast growing audience, The Sad Squirrel boosted stockpiles through creative collusions with cartoonists and artists Jonesy [Private Eye], Marshall [Private Eye], Stokoe [Private Eye], Aidan Kelly [Private Eye], Nina Antonio [Sheff], Lydia Monks, Kid Acne, Deax, Tree Hugga and Daniel Stirrup.

Campaign cartoons were shared online and in real-world settings including City Centre shop windows, cafes, bars, pubs and restaurants. Sad Squirrel calling cards were deposited across the city and mysteriously, thousands of Sad Squirrel stickers appeared on Sheffield's newly installed shiny black smart city lampposts and council buildings including Town Hall.

A parody of ELO's 'Don't Bring Me Down', The Sad Squirrel's music video for Sheffield's all star comedic ukulele band, Everly Pregnant Brothers - 'Don't Cut em Down', featured campaign footage, news clips and video captured by The Sad Squirrel on a bicycle tour of the great trees of Sheffield.

The 'Don't Cut em Down' music video, a PFI fuelled journey through the streets of Sheffield, gained over 320k views across twitter and facebook, prompting thousands of reposts, comments and reactions, further stoking the tree debate and Sheffield City Council's ill feeling towards their bushy tailed nemesis.

In total The Sad Squirrel's 71 media posts, a virulent mix of protest cartoons, animated gifs and campaign videos gained over 3.5 million impressions. In July 2017 alone, The Sad Squirrel twitter account generated 928,000 impressions.

Robert Macfarlane @RobG... · 03/07/2017
It seems the limes of Rivelin Avenue are being felled *now* as part of Sheffield Council's ongoing, mindless tree massacre.

The Sad Squirrel @TheS... · 03/07/2017
THIS IS MADNESS! Rivelin's Lime Avenue. Second longest in the UK. A fated jewel in #Sheffield's arboreal crown. FELLING NOW 🌳 #Scandal 🐿️



35 398 224

Kate Freeman @RuralK8 · 03/04/2017
The sad tale of #SheffieldTrees
5000 trees chopped,
1000 more planned,
Dr Amey gets rich,
Whilst Sheffield is damned!
Help @TheSadSquirrel

10 203 126

HelenSav @HelenSav8 · 30/10/2017
Lydgate Lane Ash. Due to be felled today by #Sheffield Council but saved by heroic members of local community. #SaveSheffTrees



The Sad Squirrel

7 101 183

BBC Springwatch
3 Feb 2021

Tawny In The Tree
This tree in Sheffield is the current roost for this tawny owl, as it rests during the day, sl...see more



Sal Morton and 2.1K others 87K Views

2.2K

169

314

The Sad Squirrel's noisy 'Thunderclap' campaign shared information and petition links with over 3 million twitter accounts, hitting number one on the environmental Thunderclap charts.

Retweeting and sharing over 17.5k tweets, The Sad Squirrel helped amplify the #SaveSheffTrees movement that trended across twitter on multiple occasions, leaving Jack Scott's echo chamber taunts blowing in the wind.

On a more sinister note, The Sad Squirrel and core #saveshefftrees campaigners engaged with unsolicited private and public communications from complicit council officials, angry arbs and vengeful twitter trolls.

In an attempted smear, The Sad Squirrel Twitter account was copycatted and a clone going by the name @TheSadSquirrel_ began disseminating pro felling content. Breaking twitter impersonation rules, the account was swiftly shut down by twitter admin.

The Sad Squirrel received multiple security alerts from Twitter of brute-force password attacks. It was also reported that Sheffield City Council actively sought to identify core campaign members using private investigators, covert surveillance and IP tracking.

In August 2017, Amey staffers parked up outside The Sad Squirrel tree at 3am on a warm summer night and set about banging an iron drainage grill with a sledgehammer.

When approached, the staffers claimed they were doing "essential drainage work". Hot footing into their van, they were soon rattling over potholes, disappearing into the night.

A Sheffield Star reporter, who had earlier referenced The Sad Squirrel in a published news article as a "vocal social media campaigner" later went on to tweet a threat to 'chop The Sad Squirrel's tree down'.

This misguided Twitter debacle, reported to South Yorkshire Police by squirrel comrades, was later referenced in a mock Sheffield Star front page, produced by editorial colleagues as a leaving gift for this flailing, in the council pocket, local reporter.

In October 2017, at the height of the injunction The Sad Squirrel received details of local road closures and ambiguous felling notices. Donning a bally, The Sad Squirrel and family took direct action to prevent the felling of a 200-year-old healthy ash tree.

In late 2020, the reprieved ash, standing opposite an infant school and providing shade to the local ice cream van and its seasonal line of lip licking locals, serendipitously became home to a tawny owl who would proudly rest in his roost by day, watching folk pass by on the pavement below.

The resident owl, named by locals as 'Crossy', roosted in the roadside ash for over two years. Featuring on BBC Spring Watch and Google Maps, the plucky owl quickly became a local celebrity and some have said, the most photographed urban

Susan Unwin @sj_unwin · 05/03/2018 ...
 What a waste; last spring this beautiful healthy mature cherry tree today this sadly butchered specimen, courtesy of @SheffCouncil specialists in environmental vandalism #NoMoreFelling #TheWorldIsWatching #SaveSheffTrees Why? Why?Why?



The Sad Squirrel and 8 others

37 367 304

Joel Ashton @Jo... · 08/03/2023 ...
 This just goes to show - don't trust those in power, don't assume you can't challenge the status quo and above all, certainly DO NOT stop standing up for #nature, because if left to certain individuals, there would be little left. Shame on @SheffCouncil



From theguardian.com

20 146 390 19K

Rich W Esq. @rbw66 · 04/04/2018 ...
 Lots of people obviously photoshopped in by clever tree protest types. Oh hang on, they seem to be 3d real people. How can that be? @sheffcouncil say tree protectors are a dodgy minority?! #saveshefftrees #TheWorldIsWatching @BiancaJagger @caitlinmoran @JayMitchinson @helenpidd



Dan Llywelyn Hall and 6 others

9 143 187

Paul Powlesland @paulp... · 24/10/2023
 Even a Guardian Long Read couldn't include all twists & turns of the Sheffield Tree Saga (particularly some legal stuff), but this is a great intro. Many of the environmental, political & legal lessons of this vital campaign have still not been learnt amp.theguardian.com/environment/20...

1 18 28 3K

owl in the UK.

With ornithologists and keen bird spotters travelling from far and wide to catch a glimpse and take a photo, Crossy was turning more than just his own head.

[Click here to find out more about @TheSadSquirrel.](#)

[Click here to access the Sheffield Trees Squirrel Files.](#)

Final Thoughts

Steve Robinson, Head of Highways and Streets Ahead spin doctor said he would “welcome residents’ views as the project progresses”. With true Yorkshire grit, Sheffield residents made their feelings stone cold clear.

Streets Ahead, Sheffield’s secretive £2.2 Billion PFI Highways contract was a complete environmental and political shit show delivered by a calamitous PFI fuelled Labour council and their profit driven PFI partner Amey with full blue-blooded support from South Yorkshire Police, all at tax payers expense.

Labour’s Sheffield City Council, both elected and unelected members, signed away half of the city’s street trees, including WWI memorial trees, veteran oaks and rare elms, to the lowest ‘preferred’ PFI bidder and then brazenly conspired to keep the contractual felling target hidden from the public.

It is outrageous that Sheffield City Council produced a fake 5 Year Tree Management Strategy document and lied to the courts of law to secure South Yorkshire Police involvement, High Court injunctions and prosecutions against its own residents.

In the first five years of the contract [2012-2017], 6000 healthy trees were felled in their prime. A criminal act of environmental vandalism and arboreal destruction resulting in the senseless loss of urban habitat and public trust.

The gross sum of public money Sheffield City Council squandered on high cost legal fees, contractual penalty payments and contract mismanagement is also criminal.

To date no conspiring councillors or council officers have been removed from post directly for their involvement in the Sheffield trees dispute. The mechanics of power, even at local level, have so far shielded complicit individuals from legal accountability.

Sheffield City Council CEO John Mothersole; Labour Council Leaders Julie Dore, Bryan Lodge and Terry Fox; Councillors Jack Scott, Neale Gibson, Jayne Dunn and Leigh Bramall; Council Officers Simon Green, David Caulfield, Paul Billington and Steve Robinson; AMEY managers Darren Butt and Jeremy Willis... shame on you!

Sheffield City Council and Amey... shame on you for the arboreal destruction, contractual lies and divisive politics that you brought to our great city.

South Yorkshire Police... shame on you for colluding with

James Mitchinson @Jay... · 20/07/2019 ...
 The Yorkshire Post says: @ForestryComm findings put #SaveSheffTrees campaigners and this newspaper on the right side of history as Sheffield City Council chalks up one of the worst betrayals of citizens in local government, ever. yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/opinion/c... @vernonkay



Bianca Jagger Nicaraguense por gracia... and 7 others
 15 86 137

Ann Ette @AnnEttekt57 · 06/03/2023 ...
 Not sure whose photo now.

Without direct action we'd have lost more trees and may not have halted the pfi tree destruction.

New legislation = more punitive consequences to people trying to defend our environment and wildlife

Thanks to all those who try

#saveshefftrees



4 6 15 688

Tweety Pops @TweetyPopsi... · 07/04/2018 ...
 City Hall Sheffield!
 #SaveSheffTrees



5 68 101

Sheffield City Council and Amey, deploying ranks of riot gear clad officers onto the residential streets of Sheffield and using anti protest surveillance equipment to aid council led prosecutions. Shame on you for blurring the thin blue line.

Fifty arrests, some using Trade Union law! Retired professors, a vicar playing a harmonica and a resident for blowing a toy trumpet. Perhaps South Yorkshire Police's efforts could have been spent better elsewhere. [Rotherham]

In flimsy defence of South Yorkshire Police, Sheffield Council had lied to a court of law when obtaining their ineffectual and over zealous services. Perhaps South Yorkshire Police need to pay Sheffield Town Hall a visit some time in the near future!

Acorn Environmental Management Group [AEMG]... shame on you for actively participating in and profiting from the mass felling of Sheffield's healthy street trees. Your reckless cut and run abandonment of Health and Safety, contempt for local community and vindictive tendencies will not be forgotten by the arboreal industry or the residents of Sheffield.

National Labour... shame on you for neglecting your anti PFI, anti privatisation ideological stance and staying silent throughout the Sheffield trees dispute.

Whilst Amey, owned by Spanish company Ferrovial, continue to syphon public money through high cost PFI highways contracts and installation of smart city, big data infrastructure.

In Sheffield and other cities across the UK and Europe, GeoAmey, a joint venture between The GEO Group Inc and Amey, provide private security, prisoner escort and custodial services. [See also G4S, Serco, and Sodexo]

The UK is now a nation where citizens that push back against the ever-accelerating privatisation of society... could end up transported to a private prison, in a private prison van, whilst being escorted by a private prison guard.

One day perhaps, Sheffield council members complicit in producing fake documents and misleading courts of law and the residents of Sheffield will find themselves travelling in a private prison van to a private prison cell pondering their PFI perjuring actions.

Haunted by the spirit of the trees and their lost inhabitants, every time one of Sheffield's PFI perpetrators see a squirrel hopping around, we hope they think of The Sad Squirrel and reflect on their ruinous impact.

With a secret multi billion pound PFI contract, fake contractual documents, excessive police involvement, inappropriate use of trade union law, PFI propaganda, institutional lies, strong arm dark hearted politics and council led attempts to mislead and imprison Sheffield residents... the Sheffield tree campaign went way beyond the trees.

At a time when cash strapped, liability adverse councils are ushered towards privatisation, where the pursuit of private profit takes precedence over social and environmental factors.

At a time when urban and social development is controlled and



SheffTreeSteel @SheffTree... · 15/03/2018 ...
 Not all heroes wear masks. These "frightening and intimidating" local residents halted the felling of magnificent healthy trees today on Kenwood Rd, a designated conservation area, from eco vandals @AcornGroupLtd, targeting 50% of our healthy eco treasures, bravo #SaveSheffTrees



8 114 193



Judgester @Judgester142 · 16/02/2017 ...
 @Ameypc @SheffCouncil @SheffTreeAction #SaveSheffTrees This is what loving your neighbourhood looks like. Stop destroying our trees please



4 104 114



Chris Burn @ChrisBurn_Post · 25/06/2023 ...
 Have written a piece for today's Sunday Times on how #saveshefftrees became one of the most successful environmental campaigns of all time - thanks to both street protests and the use of FOI:

[thetimes.co.uk/article/f49faa...](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/f49faa...)

14 92 199 31K



Paul Powlesland @p... · 16/03/2023
 With the release of the Sheffield Tree Inquiry Report & recent awful waves of tree destruction in Plymouth, Wellingborough, Haringey & elsewhere, I thought I'd re-post my article on key lessons tree protectors can draw from the Sheffield saga [lawyersfornature.com/the-felling-fi...](https://www.lawyersfornature.com/the-felling-fi...)

20 280 457 56K

Thanks for reading



coerced by external overarching forces with remote agendas.

At a time when our planet's environment is facing uncertain challenges brought about by short sighted and ill-conceived human activity.

At a time when the cornerstone of democracy, the right to peaceful protest and freedom of speech is under sustained political and legal threat.

The Sheffield tree campaign is an important reminder of the potential for positive environmental and political change through civic disobedience and organised creative resistance.

It took a committed group of residents years of resistance for the Streets Ahead contractual felling target to be revealed and Sheffield City Council's PFI tree killing machine to be stopped.

Sheffield residents stood up to protect their communities trees and through kind hearted, dedicated and determined action saved over 12,500 Sheffield street trees from PFI destruction.

Affecting policy change across the UK and bringing an amendment to the Highways Act, the Sheffield tree campaigns pursuit of arboreal democracy gave every resident in the UK a voice over the future of their street trees.

Each and every person who played a part in Sheffield's tree campaign should take great energy as they pass beneath Sheffield's street trees, their actions have created a lasting legacy, one that the city should be incredibly proud of.

With Sheffield City Council set to install a plaque in Sheffield Town Hall to commemorate the Sheffield tree campaign, the story of the battle to save Sheffield's street trees from PFI destruction will echo through the generations.

As the plaque serves to remind people of Sheffield's residents courageous actions in protection of their local environment, let it also be a reminder to any future Council that if they ever try anything like this again, the people of Sheffield will fight back and will bring about their political destruction.

Throughout the Sheffield trees campaign, both on the streets and on twitter, The Sad Squirrel made many friends and many enemies - some in the highest of places.

More power to all that continue to protect our environment and the natural world in the face of privatisation, corporate greed and political destruction.

Never give up... Never lose hope... Always keep fighting

The Sad Squirrel x

[Click here to find out more about these Final Thoughts.](#)

[Are you involved in a tree campaign? Access essential web links and campaign resources here.](#)



ianswalkonthewildside



Squirrel Files and Additional Resources

Want to dig deeper into the Sheffield tree campaign? Click [here](#) to access the Squirrel files, a comprehensive online collection of essential web links, news articles, twitter archives, cartoons and campaign analytics.

Reading this on paper? Scan the QR code to access an online version of this document.



Acknowledgments

Special Sad Squirrel thanks to SORT, STAG, Forestry Commission, David Long, Deepa Shetty, Louise Wilcockson, David Dillner, Calvin Payne, Rich Ward, Michael J Keane, Helen McIlroy, Lydia Monks, Russell Horsey, Kate Birch, Paul Brooke, Paul Selby, Graham T, Justin Buxton, Margaret Peart, Sally Goldsmith, Susan Unwin, Duchess Lime, Jacqui 'Pixelwich' Bellamy, Bracken Moorland, Sarah Deakin, Keith Deakin, Mark Cakeman, David Glass, Rob 'Tree Hunter' McBride, Jeremy Barrell, David J Elliot, Vernon Oak, Marcus Combie, Alice Fairhall, Aminata Keita, Robin Ridley, Zoe Barrowdale, SheffTreeSteel, Rebecca Hammond, Graham T, Alison Teal, Jo Turner, Jane Miller, David Glass, Elizabeth Payton, Helen Sav, Ellie E, Imo-K, Wasp, Berty, Binkus, Jude, D-Mop, The Yorkshire Post, James Mitchinson, Chris Burn, Bandeira, Lawyers for Nature, Paul Powlesland, Chris Packham, Robert Macfarlane, Benjamin Zephaniah, Patrick Barkham, The Guardian, The Ecologist, George Monbiot, Alastair Humphries, Ian Rotherham, Tree Hugga, Woodland Trust, Trees for Cities, Wildlife Trust, Private Eye, Dave 'Ziggy' Greene, Scene and Heard Reports, Jonesy, Stokoe, Nigel Humberstone, Kid Acne, Everly Pregnant Brothers, J Opaka, Timewalk Project, STARTS, Paul 'The Street Tree' Wood, Parliament Oak, Theresa Green, Lynne Chapman, Jackie Morris, Ian R Slack, Ann Anderson, Graeme Benson, Lavinia Lime, Book of Eleanor, Simon Crump, Douglas Johnson, Heather CC, Wyalat Family, Western Road Memorial Trees, Natalie Bennett, TiCL, Nina Antonia, Marshall Unfunny, Pete McKee, Gary J.G, Harry Venning, Mike Barnfield, Daniel Stirrup, Pro Cartoonists, Alternative Press, Small Press Day, Graham Wroe, The Spectator, Toddla T, Jarvis Cocker, John Shuttleworth, Andy Kershaw, Liz Roberts, Toby Foster, Jeremy Vine, Vernon Kay, Cerys Matthews, Bianca Jagger, Craig Bennet, James O'Brien, South Yorkshire Post, BBC Springwatch, BBC Yorkshire, We Own It, 1o5CleanEnergy, Arbor Smarty, Sheffield TUC, Information Commissioners Office, Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Friends of the Earth, NetPol, Liberty, Stone Henge Alliance, Green Peace, Shine a Light Journalism, Animal Watch, Earth First, The Tree Council, John Vidal, Labour Animal Rights Group, Laws4Animals, Krasnov, Arboricultural Association, MP Louise Haigh, Caroline Lucas, Health and Safety Executive, It's Our City, Clean Air Sheffield, Sheffield Environmental, Sheffield Green Party, Magid Magid, Louise Haigh, Nick Sanford, Lord Paul Scrivener, MP Nick Clegg, Bristol Tree Forum.

JUL 2017 SUMMARY

Tweets **136** Tweet impressions **928K**

JUN 2017

28 day summary with change over previous period

Tweets **164** ↑272.7% Tweet impressions **865K** ↑516.4%



Profile visits **17.6K** ↑105.7%



Mentions **2,112** ↑55.0%



Followers **9,770** ↑1,018



Biggest Tweet

Post activity

The Sad Sq... @TheSadS... · Jan 25, 2017



PLEASE SIGN THE PETITIONS.
 Help stop AMEY & #Sheffield City Council cutting down our trees.
savesheffdtrees.org.uk/petitions/
 #SaveSheffTrees #GTOS17

1.2K 2.3K 103

Impressions ⓘ
437K

Engagements ⓘ
20,026

Profile visits ⓘ
301

Detail expands ⓘ
1,788

Link clicks ⓘ
2,578

Scan the QR Code for more information.



The Sad Squirrel - Campaign Analytics

The Sad Squirrel - Twitter Media Posts

	Impressions	Date
Pinned - Squirrel Tweet	434,000	25/01/2017
This is Madness	52,015	29/06/2018
From Vernon Oak to Western Road WW1 Memorial Trees	21,559	03/05/2018
Private Eye - Apparently	73,376	07/04/2018
Take Back Control	55,411	29/03/2018
Things are Kicking Off - BBC	61,255	25/03/2018
Oxygen Jarvis	35,059	23/03/2018
Private Eye - Sheffield Cat	17,030	09/03/2018
Chelsea Rd Elm - PFI Vandalism	72,059	12/02/2018
Welcome to Sheffield - Obey or Pay	4,680	22/01/2018
Private Eye - Buzzing Chainsaws	59,370	15/01/2018
Private Eye - Rotten Borough	156,000	12/01/2018
The Naughty List	39,297	20/12/2017
Every Tree Chopped is a Habitat Lost	133,000	28/11/2017
Fallen Boys Standing Trees - Art Exhibition	8,666	24/11/2017
Dawn Raid - Rustlings Road	36,737	17/11/2017
A Living Monument to a Fallen Hero Salutes its final Autumn	64,477	11/11/2017
Tree Charter Launch	5,580	06/11/2017
Injunction Payne	21,353	31/10/2017
Wanted - Teal and Payne (Monks)	52,523	23/10/2017
Vernon Oak	32,657	16/10/2017
Private Eye - Felling Lies	295,000	16/10/2017
Rivelin Lime Avenue	102,000	09/10/2017
Everly Pregnant Brothers - Don't Cut 'Em Down	256,000	27/09/2017
Chelsea Elm	74,404	11/09/2017
£66 Million Community Assets lost	40,797	07/09/2017
Making the World a Sadder Place	23,203	23/08/2017
Operation PFI Scapegoat	30,380	21/08/2017
Release the Secret £2.2 Billion PFI Contract	67,384	15/08/2017
Please Sign the Petitions - Stokoe	9,516	15/08/2017
Eviction Notice - Jonesy	52,867	15/08/2017
Axe the Axe	10,334	28/07/2017
Private Eye - I'm a lumberjack - Stokoe	13,952	28/07/2017
A Dark Stain on the History of Sheffield	59,996	28/07/2017
The Road to Ruin..	6,416	28/07/2017
Private Eye - They Must Have Run Out of Trees	72,676	28/07/2017
8 Heroic Defenders	9,319	26/07/2017
Injunction Day	66,129	17/07/2017
Nuts Away - Stokoe	4,618	16/07/2017
Sheffield Squirrel Exodus - Jonesy	42,440	13/07/2017
Felling Lies Preview	91,133	12/07/2017
5000 Healthy Trees Chopped	153,000	10/07/2017
This is Madness!!! A Fated Jewel in Sheffield's Arboreal Crown	198,000	03/07/2017
Blossom, Butterflies and Bees - Abbeydale Park Rise Blossom	81,472	29/06/2017
Fourteen Arrests	3,620	27/06/2017
Twitter Moment Collection	7,277	24/06/2017
Dr Amey 2	6,600	23/06/2017
For Every Tree Felled, the Environment, People and Wildlife Will Suffer	67,724	09/06/2017
Stop the Chop	45,867	07/06/2017
Sheff Poem - Nina Antonia	25,257	22/04/2017
Thunderclap Promotion	4,446	19/04/2017
Thunderclap Promotion	4,153	17/04/2017
Thunderclap Promotion	2,097	17/04/2017
Thunderclap Promotion	2,654	17/04/2017
Thunderclap Promotion	20,273	14/04/2017
Thunderclap Promotion	6,405	13/04/2017
Jack Scott - Profit Margins	1,114	11/04/2017
Thunderclap Promotion	33,219	09/04/2017
Roots of Steel	5,024	05/04/2017
Thunderclap Promotion Trending	2,602	04/04/2017
Dr Amey 1	13,095	21/03/2017
Shame on You - Channel 4 News	27,279	16/03/2017
Jack Scott - Contract	2,424	26/02/2017
Cllr Dore and Trade Union Law	4,162	23/02/2017
Whose Trees	92,077	09/02/2017
That's the Trees gone.. Now Let's Flatten the Hills	6,422	27/01/2017
Lest Wee Forget - Western Road WW1 Amey Memorial	15,398	27/01/2017
Amey HQ London	29,760	14/01/2017
Trump Putin Amey	4,210	14/01/2017
Squirrel Cemetery	7,700	14/01/2017
Please Help	5,400	14/01/2017

Total Impressions between Jan 2017 to June 2018 from 71 Media Post **3,643,399**
Total Thunderclap Reach - 19/04/2017 **3,012,877**
Everly Pregnant Brothers - Don't Cut Em Down (Music Video) - Views **322,296**

The Battle to Save Sheffield's Street Trees from PFI Destruction

A Cartoon War



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- #05 - [Graeme Bandeira - #Tootgate \[The Yorkshire Post\]](#)
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- #045 - [Graeme Bandeira - Gove Squirrel \[The Yorkshire Post\]](#)
- #046 - [James Whitworth - Life Expectancy \[Sheffield Telegraph\]](#)
- #047 - [Robert Macfarlane - Heartwood \[etching by Jackie Morris\]](#)
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- #053 - [The Sad Squirrel - Let's Flatten The Hills](#)
- #054 - [Unknown - Wanted](#)
- #055 - [The Sad Squirrel - PFI Tree Killing Machine](#)
- #056 - [The Sad Squirrel - Lest Wee Forget](#)
- #057 - [Don't Chop em Down - Everly Pregnant Brothers \[The Sad Squirrel Music Video\]](#)

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SAVE SHEFFIELD'S TREES



No. 1448
14 July -
27 July 2017
£1.80

PRIVATE EYE

Sheffield residents try to explain their council's shady footpath maintenance PFI...

FELLING LIES

*as first exposed in Eye 1402

The theory is this. Amey plc has been given a 25-year contract to maintain the roads in Sheffield. So, what's the cost difference between maintaining a large, mature tree compared to a new, small tree? All Amey are doing is felling trees to reduce their long-term maintenance costs.



The council not having fully read the £2.2 billion contract before signing it is just staggering. They've admitted this.



SCENE & HEARD

By DAVID ZIGGY GREENE

Thousands of trees around the city marked for felling are tied with yellow ribbon.

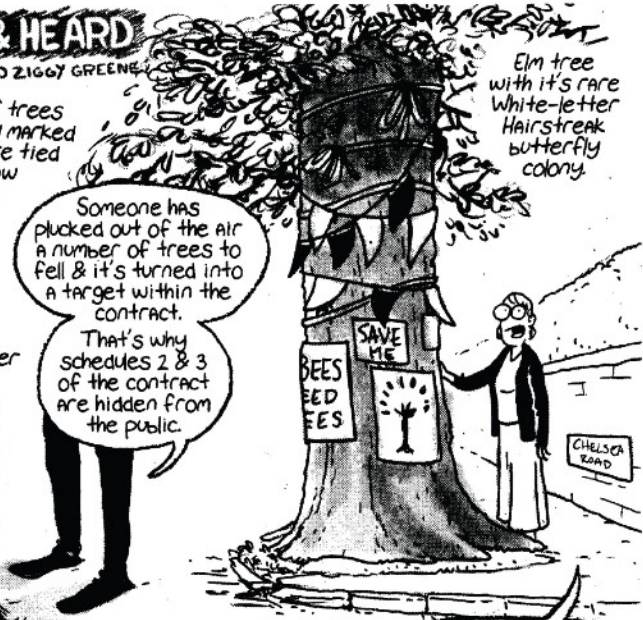
'Vernon' the healthy 150-year-old oak being felled with 18,000 other trees 'damaging' roads & paths.



Have to talk away from this tree to avoid suspicion, conflict amongst neighbours...

Someone has plucked out of the air a number of trees to fell & it's turned into a target within the contract.

That's why schedules 2 & 3 of the contract are hidden from the public.



Elm tree with it's rare white-letter Hairstreak butterfly colony.

The council said it would cost £50,000 to do the necessary pavement work to keep this tree.

An independent highway engineer came along & said at most it would cost £3,500. Just a slight difference!

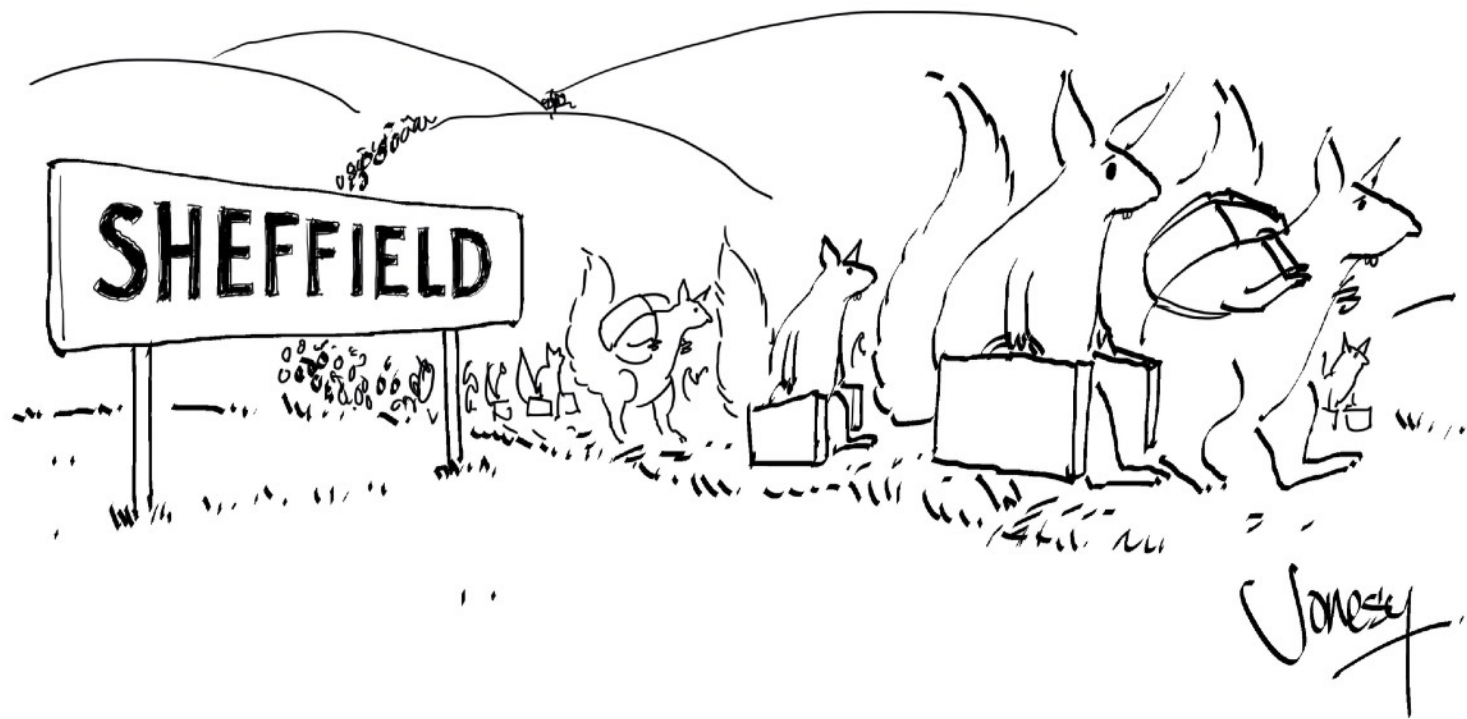






THE YORKSHIRE POST

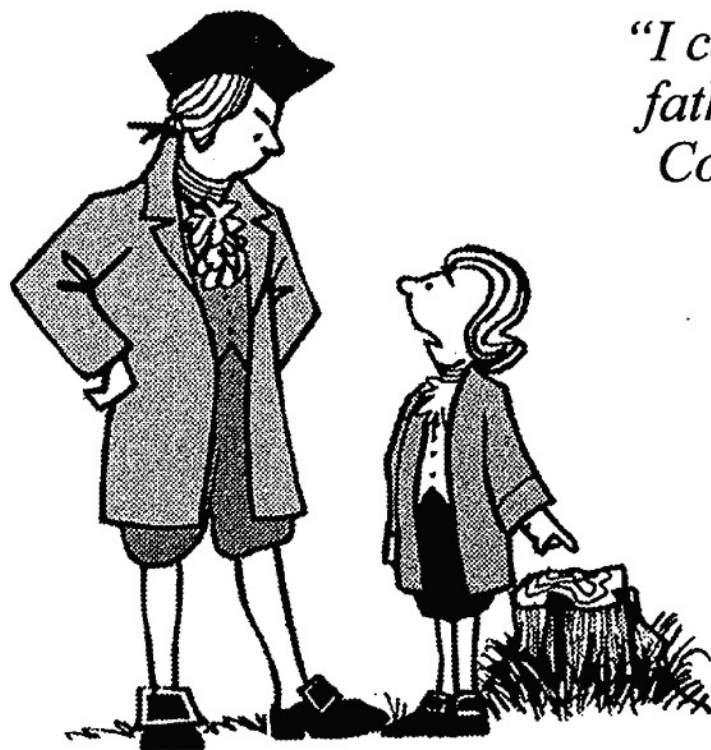






No. 1468
20 April –
3 May 2018
£2.00

PRIVATE EYE



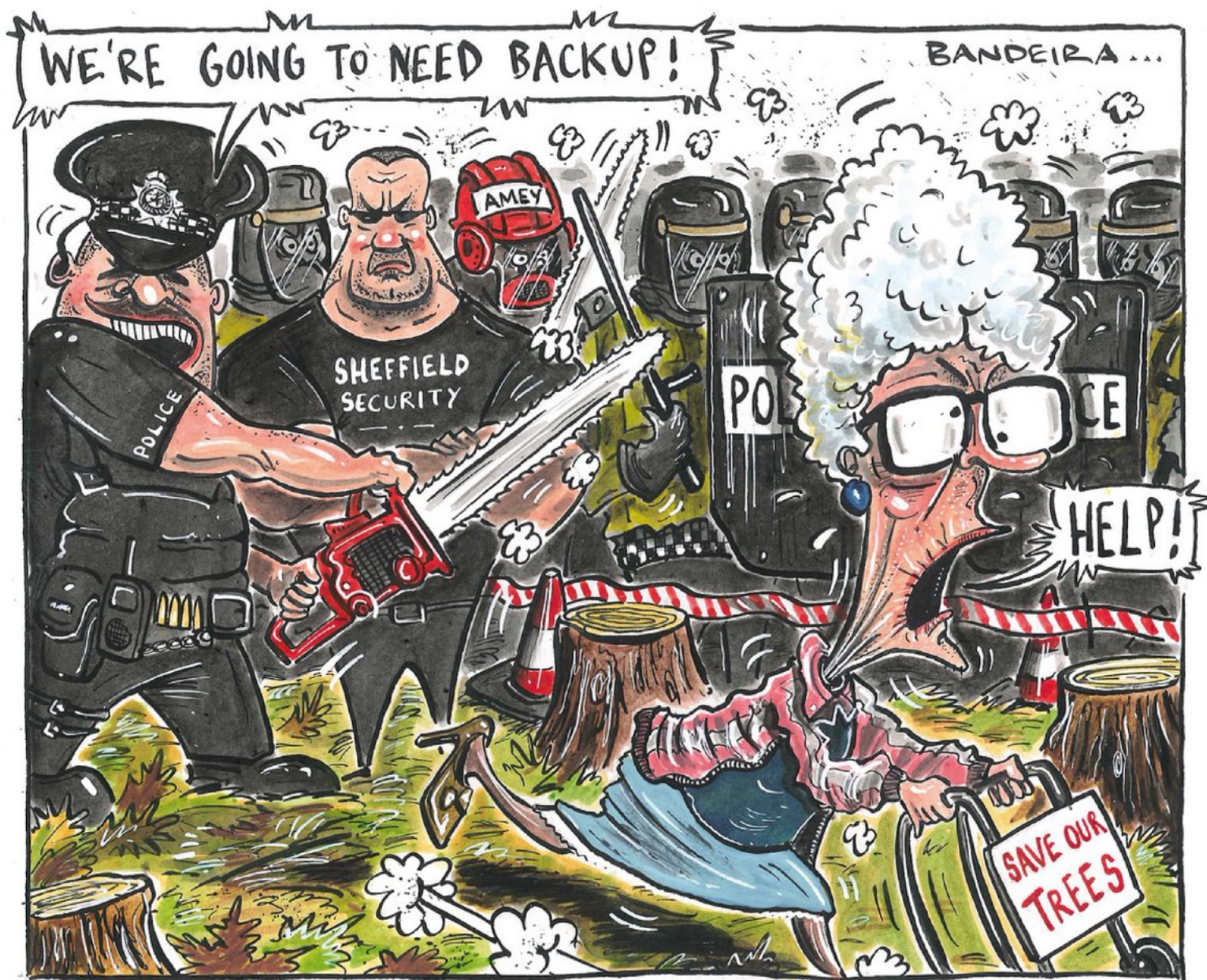
*"I cannot tell a lie,
father – Sheffield
Council did it!"*

RON
MEARNS

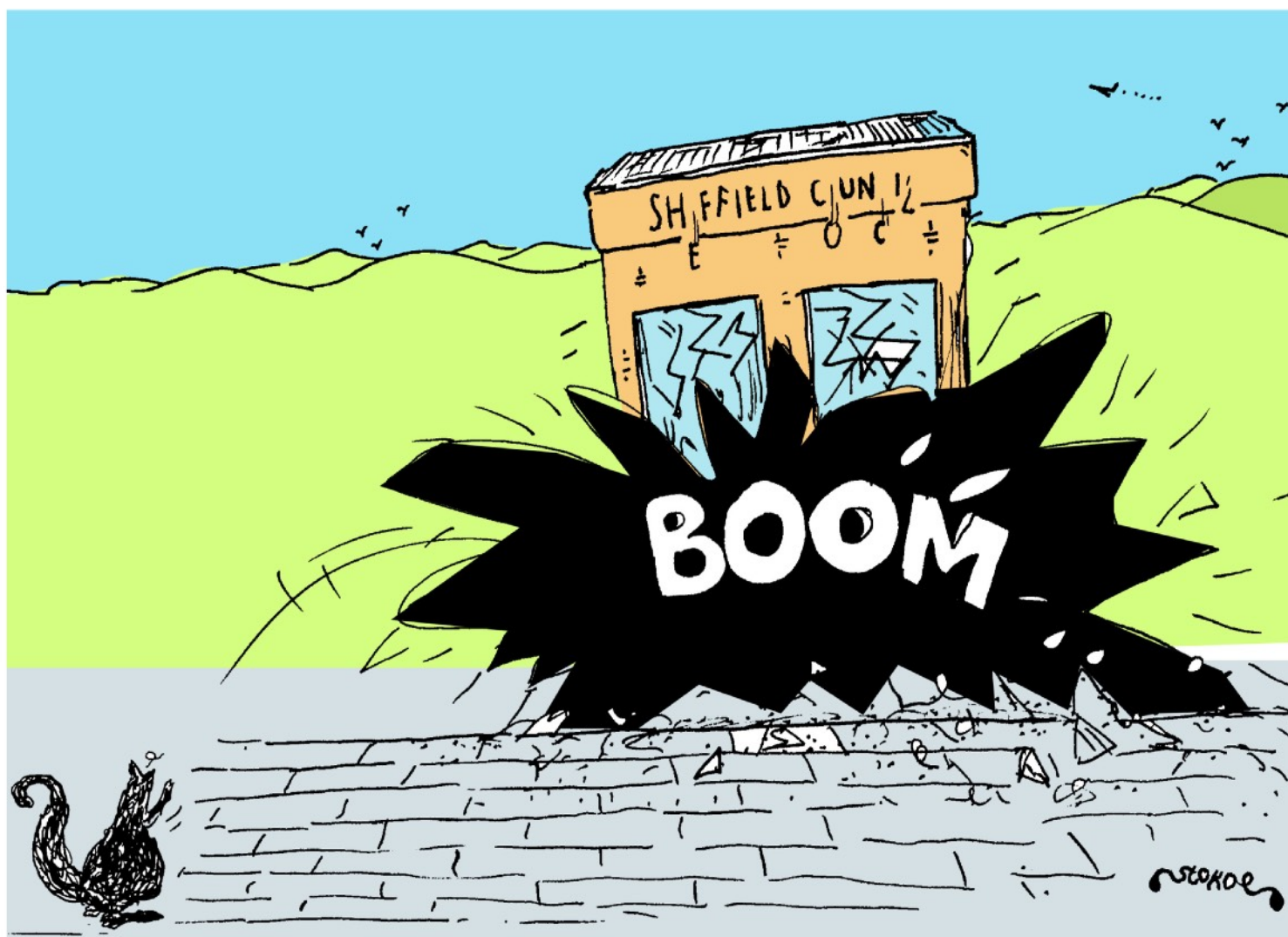


"THE COUNCIL SAY OUR TREE HAS TO COME DOWN
AS IT'S A DANGER TO PEDESTRIANS."

 **The Star**



THE YORKSHIRE POST





Minnie AP2.

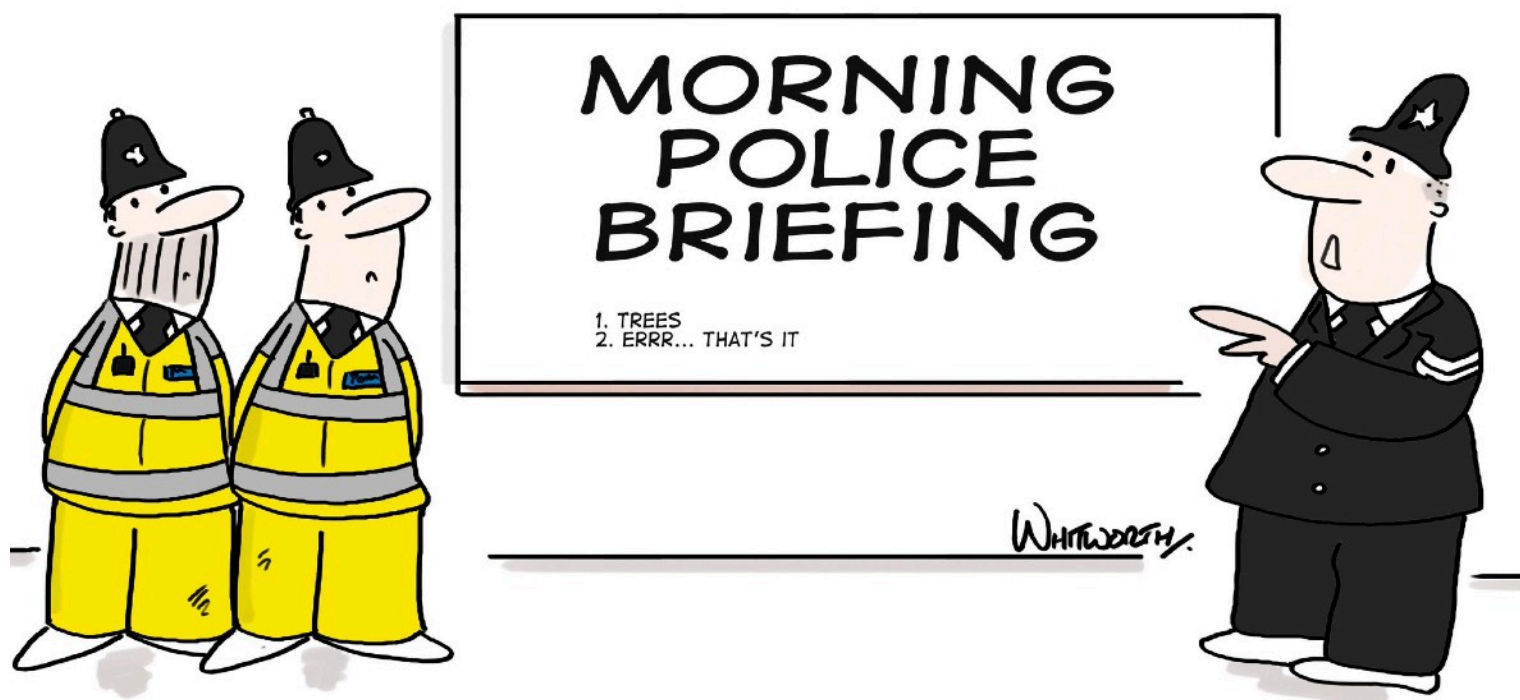
2017



Clare in the Community BY HARRY VENNING
theguardian







"WE'VE GOT PEOPLE ROAMING THE STREETS WITH CHAINSAWS, SO YOUR TEAM'S JOB IS TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE KEPT SAFE."

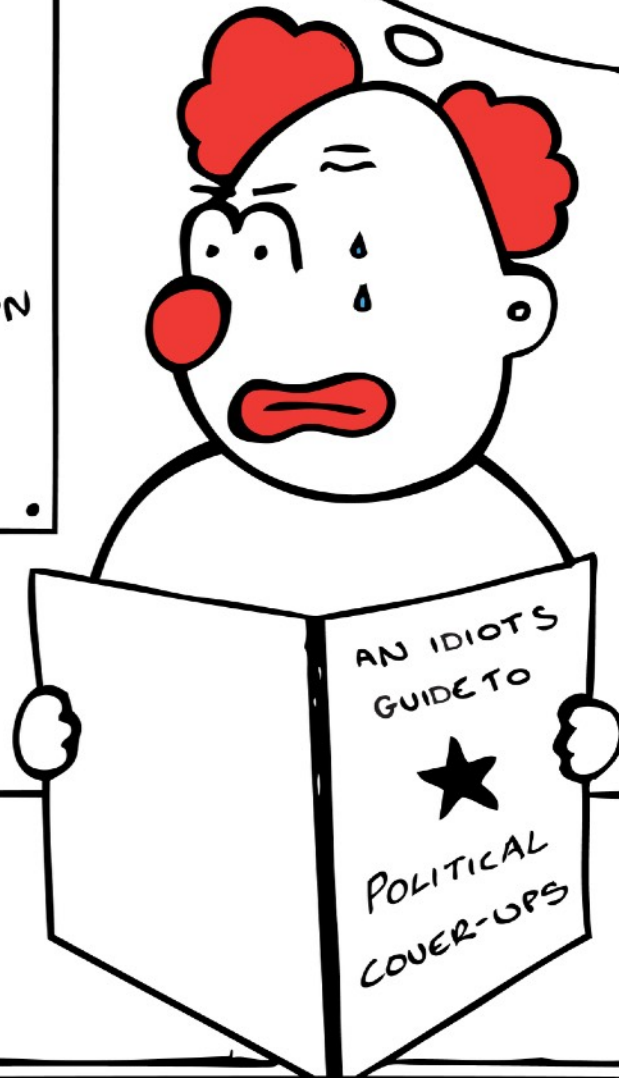
BUY SIGNED PRINTS OR ORIGINALS FROM WWW.WHITWORTHCARTOONS.COM

MEANWHILE AT SHEFFIELD COUNCIL ...

WE SHOULD'VE
READ THE
CONTRACT!

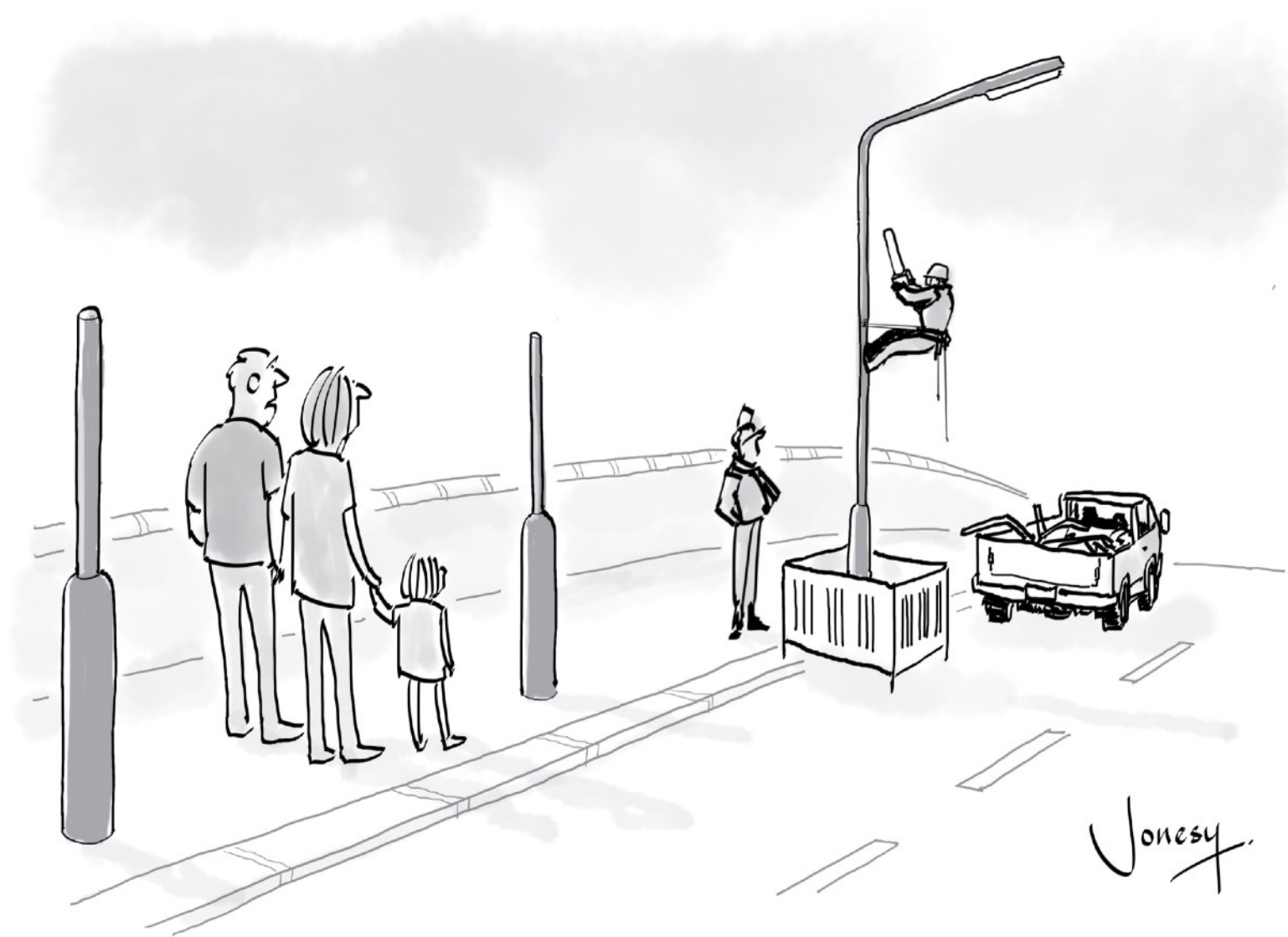
To Do

- REDACT CONTRACT
- SPIN AND SMEAR
- MISINFORMATION
- SHAM SURVEY
- IGNORE EXPERTS
- SNUB TREE PANEL
- SUPPRESS OPPOSITION
- TREE BOUNCERS
- ARRESTS
- INJUNCTIONS



© TheSadSquirrel

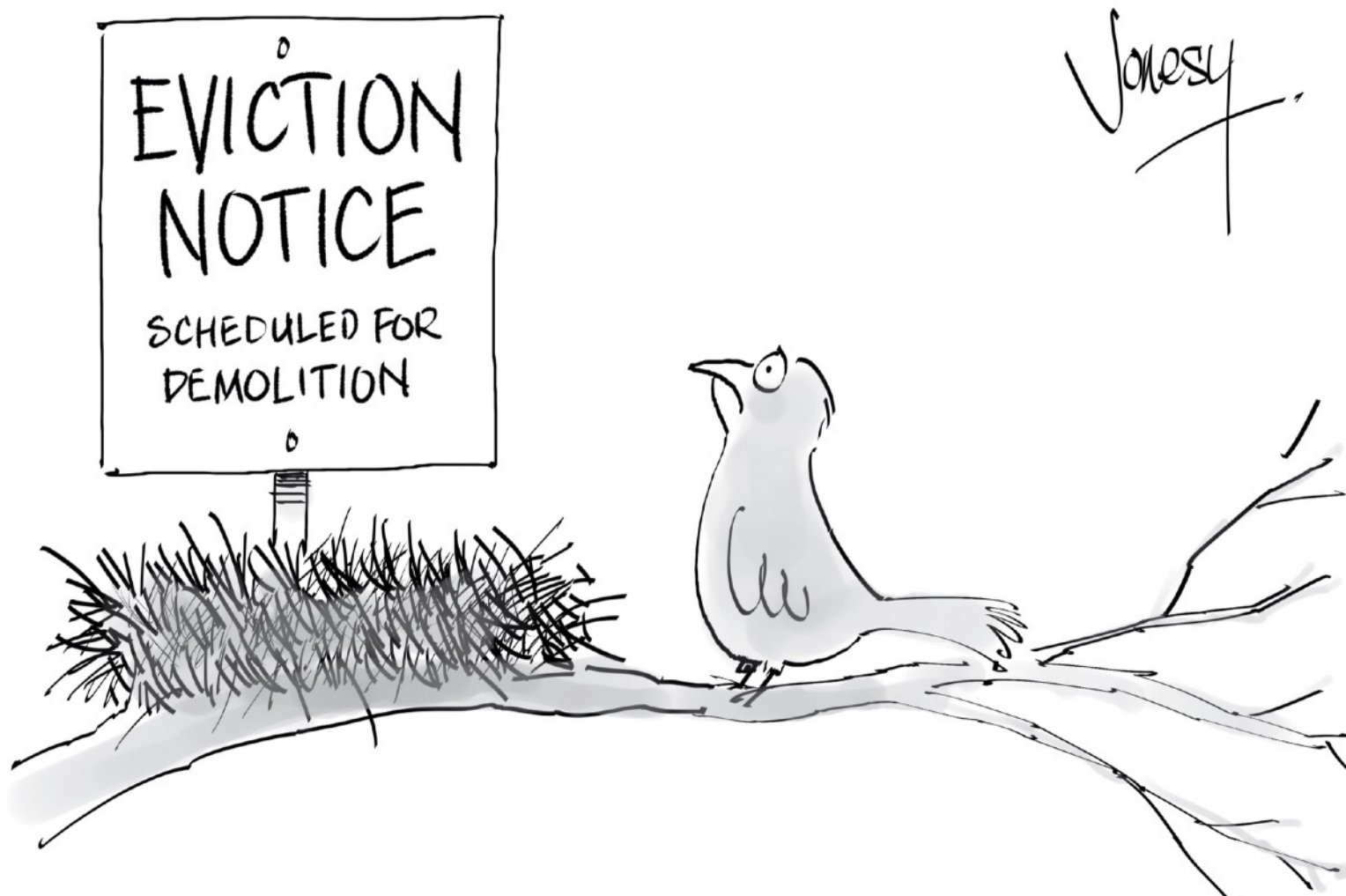
#SAVESHEFFTREES



"They must have run out of trees"



SHEFFIELD CAT...





THE YORKSHIRE POST



PRIVATE EYE

ROTTEN BOROUGHS

Sheffield

CHAINSAW MASSACRE

IT IS at last coming home to the leadership of Sheffield city council that allowing thousands of trees to be felled (*Eyes passim*) could lead to their majority being axed in the 2018 elections.

While the council has defended its 25-year, £2.2bn PFI highways contract with contractor Amey, a growing number of Labour supporters have warned that the party has lost their votes. Council leader Julie Dore spent much of a party meeting slated for drawing up plans for May elections fighting criticism of the tree-felling instead. Following the meeting, an insider told the *Yorkshire Post* that Dore had said the contract may yet be brought in-house. Then the Labour group said Sheffield has *never* been in favour of PFI (!) and would consider ending the contract if it was “financially viable” – meaning it had to work out what it would cost to buy off Amey.


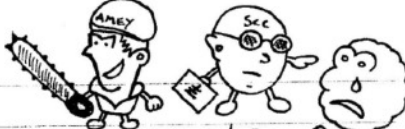
Cynics say this was a PR job aimed at winning back support. They point to a petition of more than 8,000 signatures that was received by Jeremy


Corbyn’s office calling on the Labour leader to use his influence on his party colleagues in Sheffield. There has been no formal response from Corbyn’s office, and it was never expected he would publicly embarrass Labour in Sheffield, but many believe his people may have had a quiet word.



Meanwhile the chainsaws are still buzzing, with every cut damaging the council’s credibility. Last week it said it would press on with felling 41 trees planted as a memorial to men from the city who died in the First World War. Cllr Bryan Lodge, “cabinet member for environment and street scene”, says the trees are “damaging our roads, paths and private property” and it would cost £500,000 to save them. The campaign group Sheffield Tree Action described that figure as a “joke”.






PS. Council leaders may have hoped they could salvage some credibility with their announcement that the unpopular bid by tycoon Wang Chunming and his Sichuan Guodong Group to take over Sheffield’s art deco library building and turn it into a five-star hotel (*Eyes passim*) is now off. However, it was not the council’s decision but Wang’s, after he had second thoughts about spending £30m on the dilapidated building.


Eye 1460



 - 'Sheff' 

It is the Saddest thing
 To see 

A Council with NO Empathy
 For whom the changing seasons
 Are an inconvenience  

The Careless Joy of  
 Petal plums AND 
 SUNSET DAPPLIED LEAVES
 The Harvest of THE TREES
 ON THESE STREETS NO MORE
 EYES DOWN ON DYSTOPIA
 Where ENDLESS SLABS
 of Grey
 PAVE THE WAY  

It is the Saddest thing
 To see 

A Council Lacking clemency
 Who SEE NOT the Poetry
 Of OAK and Elder  



Blossom, Birch
 Hawthorne, Ash and Yew 

BLAKE'S SENTINELS
 Of ALBION
 PULLED FROM THE ROOTS
 BY THOSE EXEMPT  
 From DEEPER TRUTHS

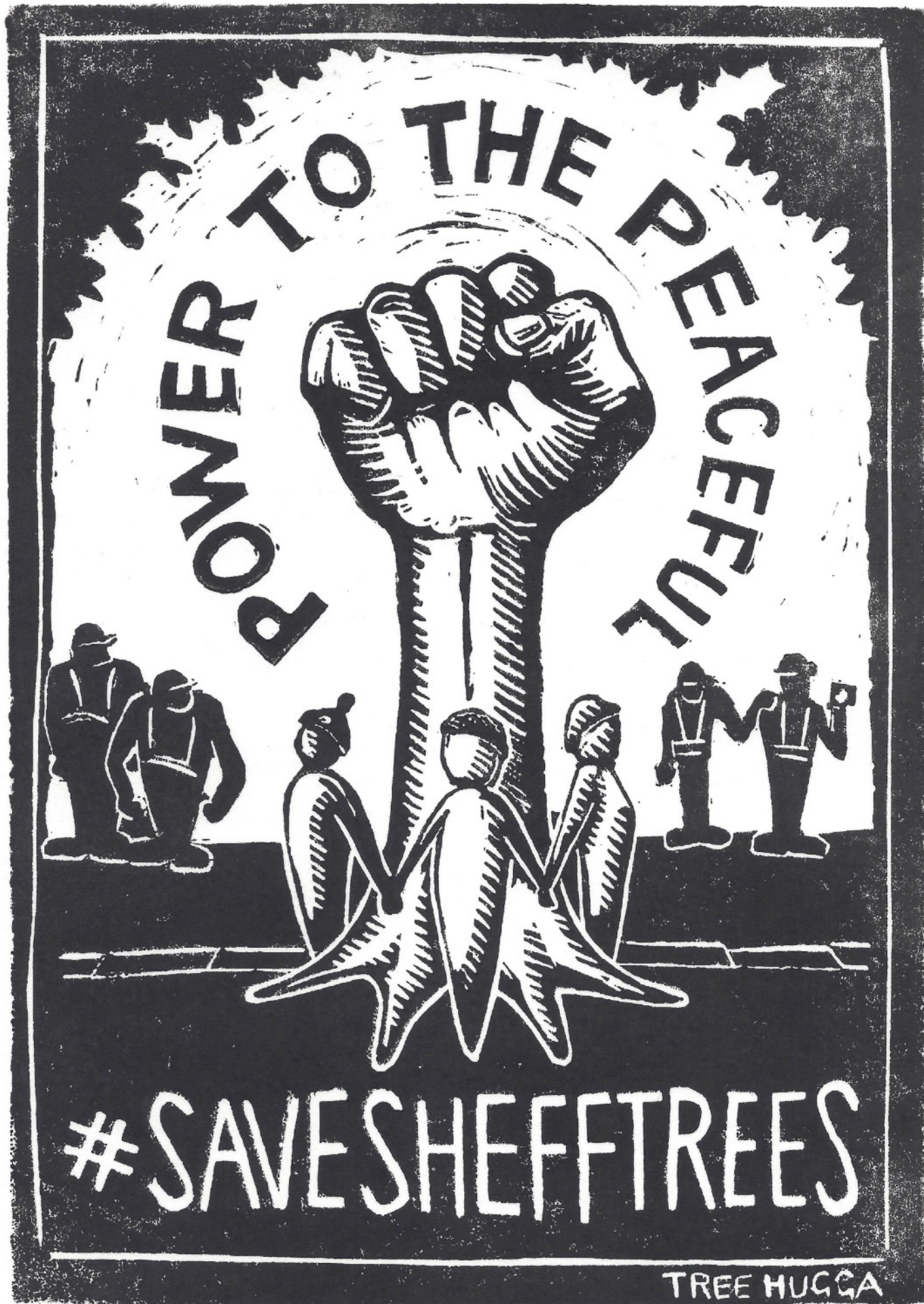
It is the Saddest thing
 To see 

A Council immune
 TO GREEN BEAUTY  
 EXPUNGING STREETS
 Of ANCIENT GUARDIANS
 SONGS of child hood  
 ALLIES of INNOCENCE
 CENTURIES OLD 
 IN THEIR MAGNIFICANCE
 CALLED FOR IGNORANCE

NINA ANTONIA 2017



@TheSadSquirrel

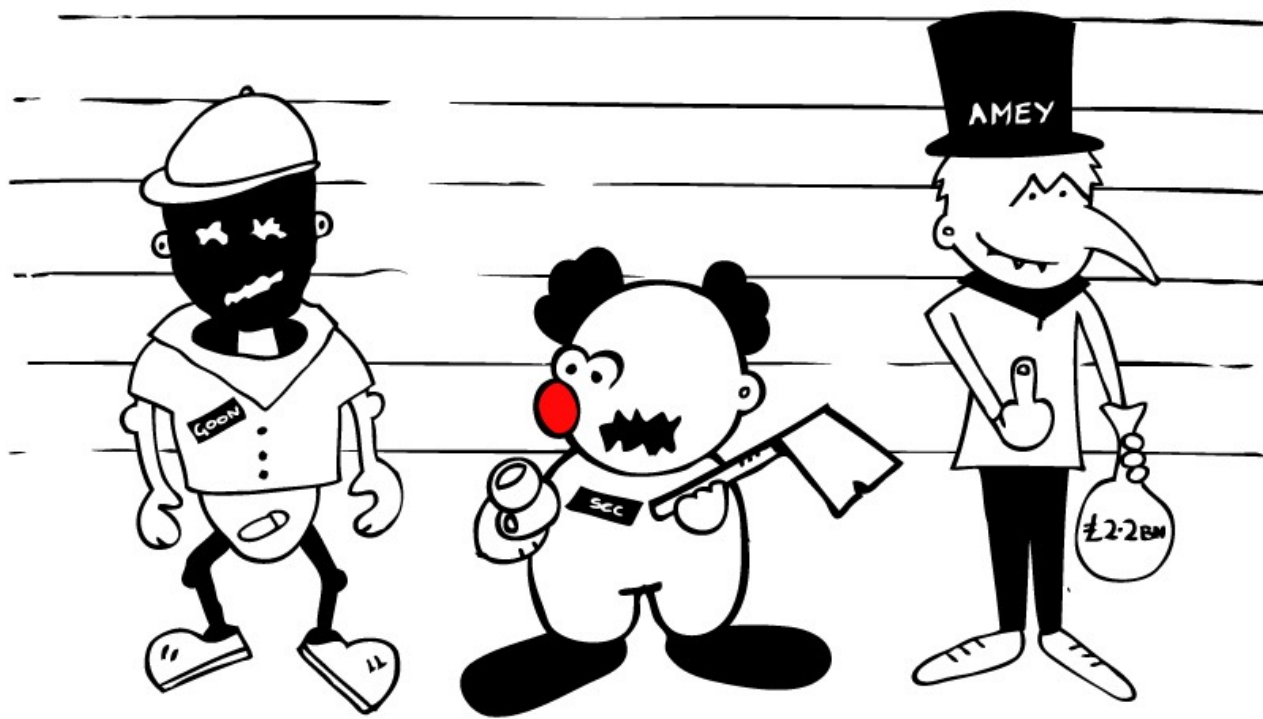






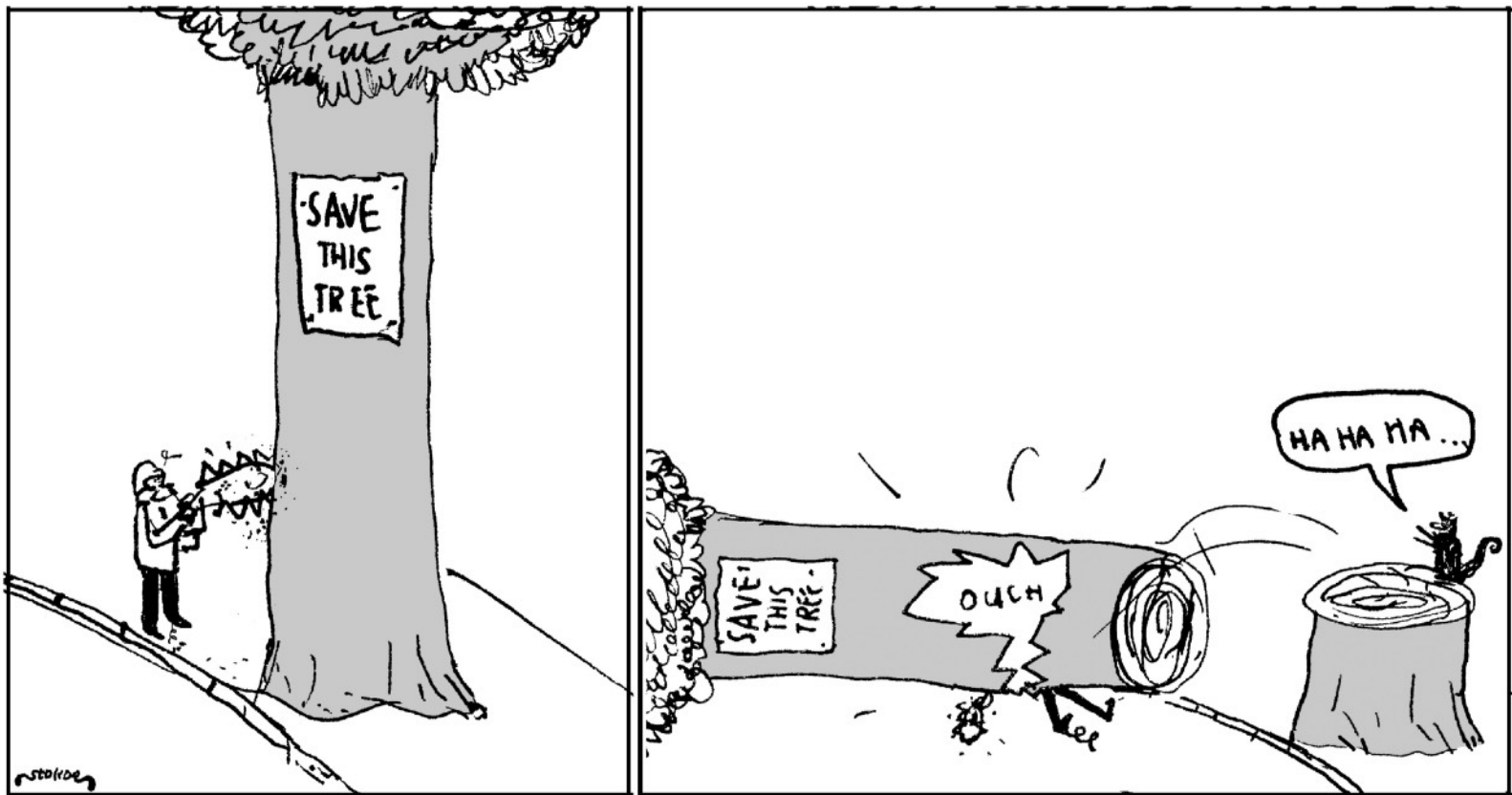


OBEDY OR PAY



@TheSadSquirrel

#SAVESHEFFTREES



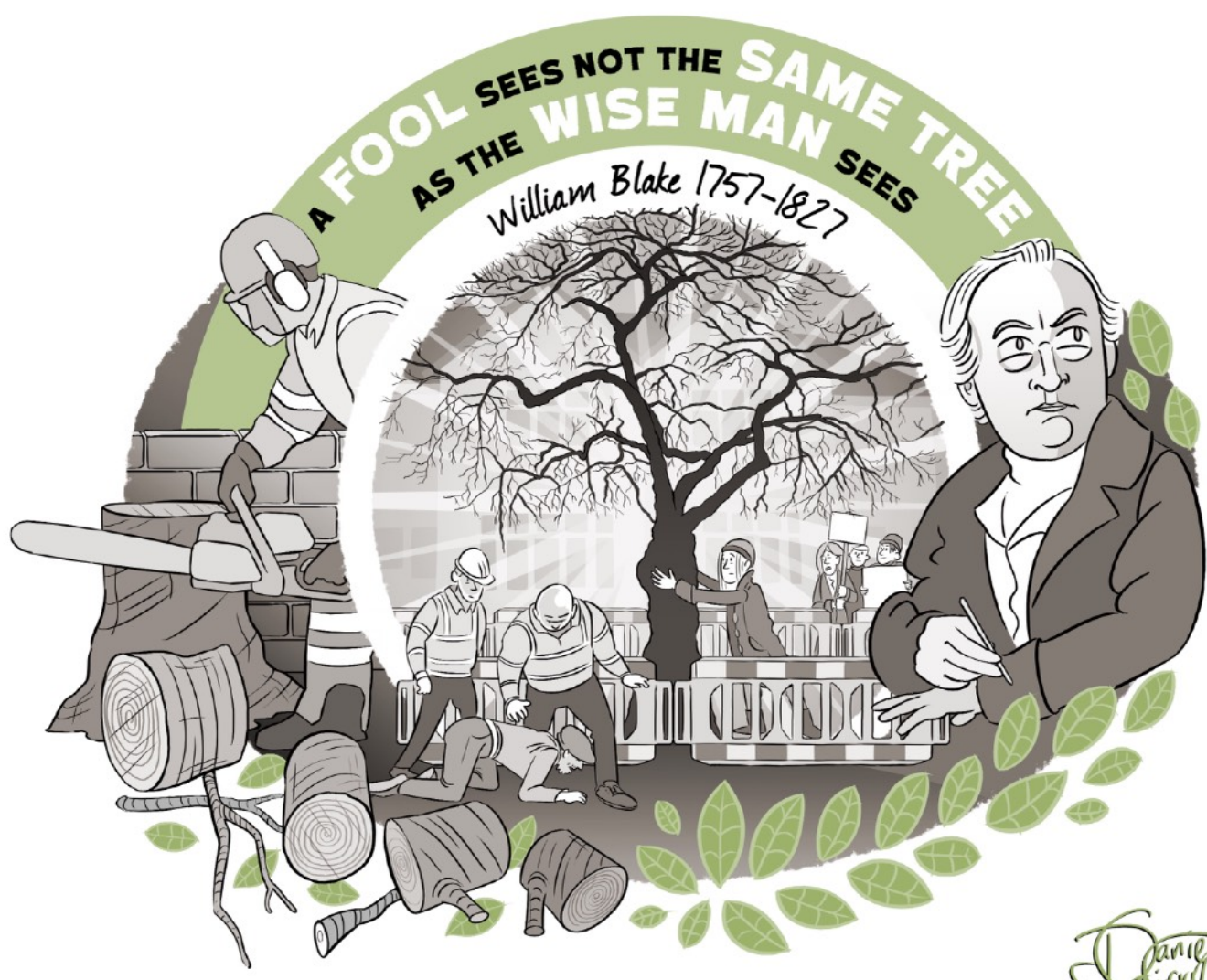


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ONE CHEERFULNESS



Daniel Stirrup

ILLUSTRATION BY @DANIELSTIRRUP

#SAVESHEFFTREES



No. 1497
4 April -
10 April 2014
£2.00

PRIVATE EYE

Apparently BY MIKE BARFIELD

THE YORKSHIRE LANDSCAPE:
ITS AMAZING VARIETY

WHITBY



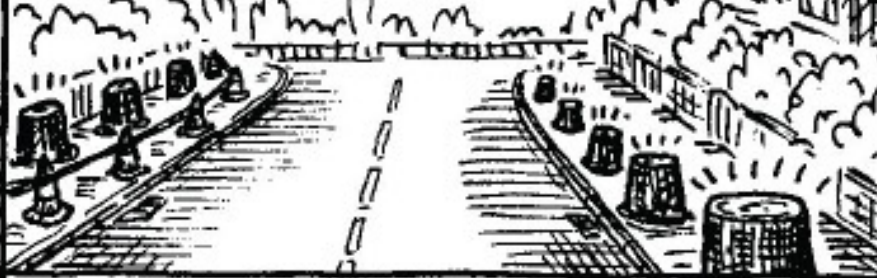
THE MOORS

RICHMOND

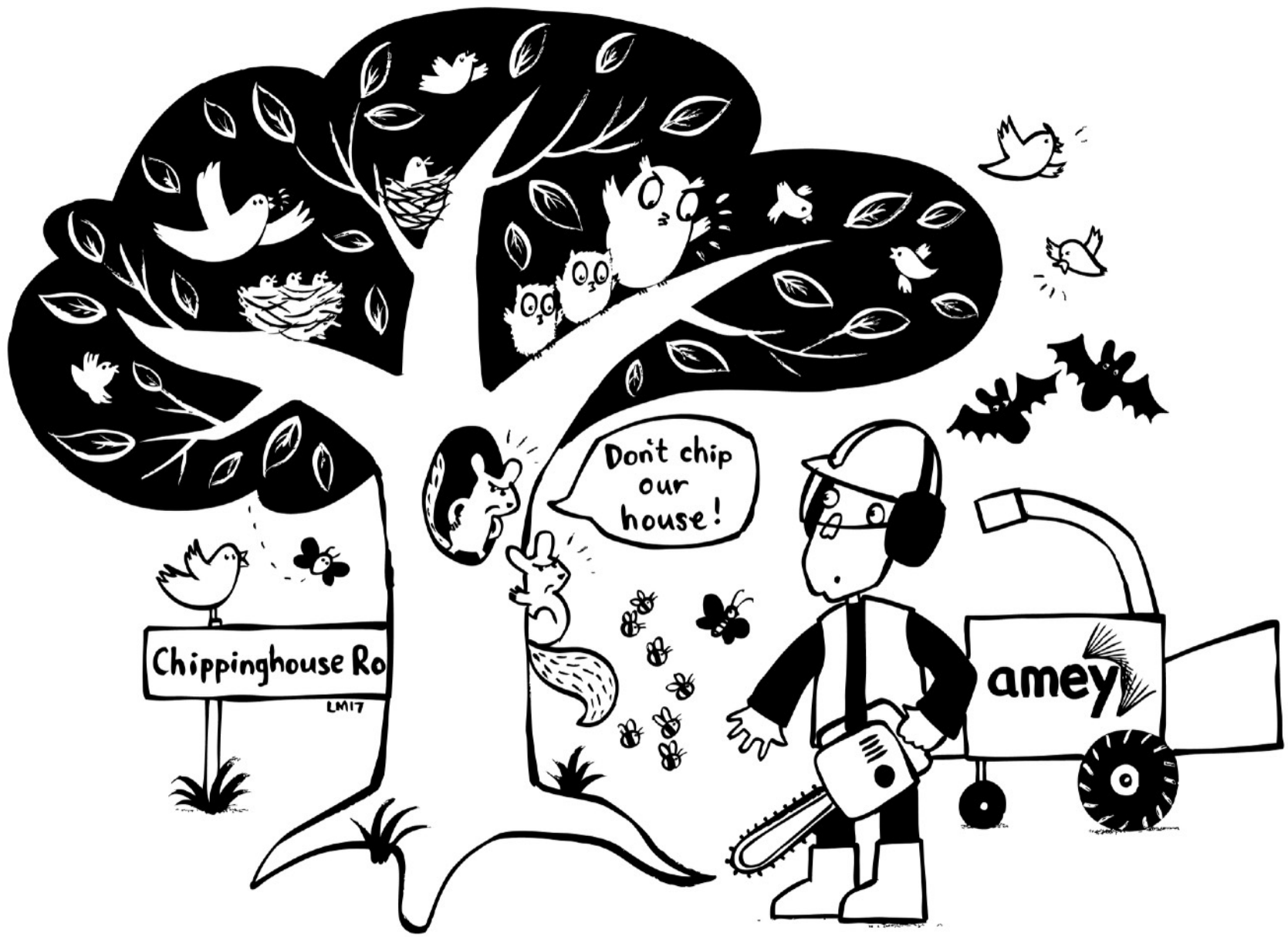


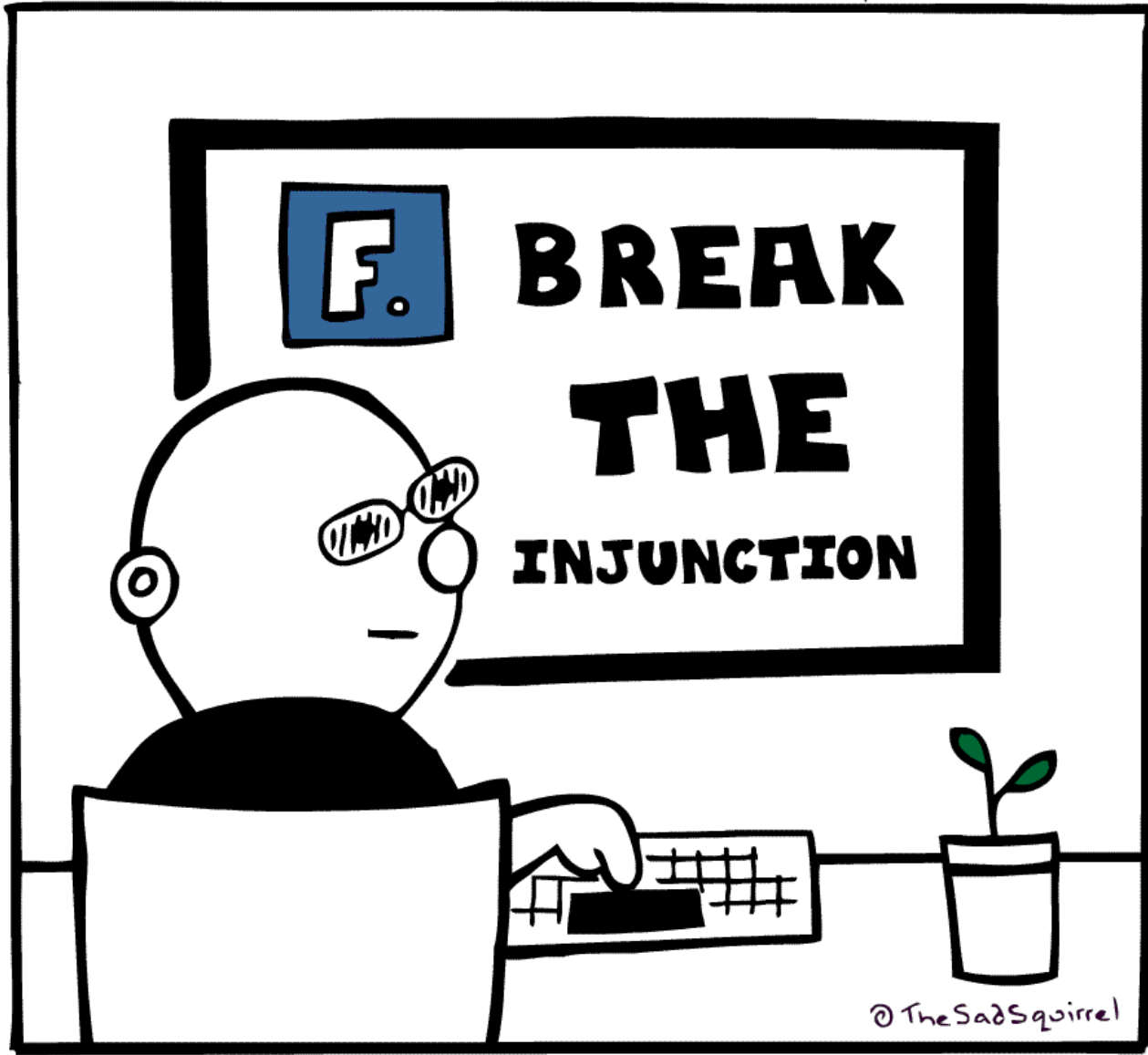
THE DALES

SHEFFIELD

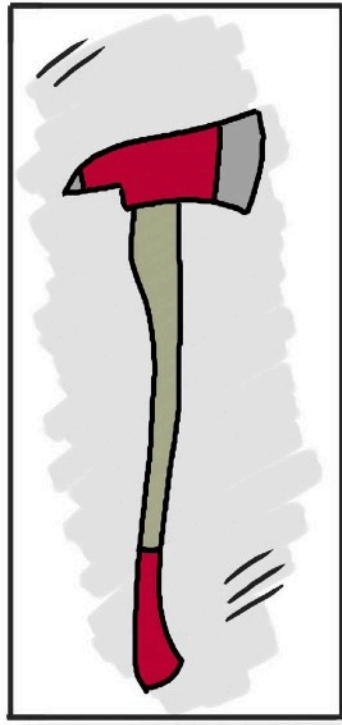


THE FELS





COUNCIL



TO BE USED
IN THE EVENT OF
THE DISCOVERY
OF A FIRE...
OR AN ELM TREE

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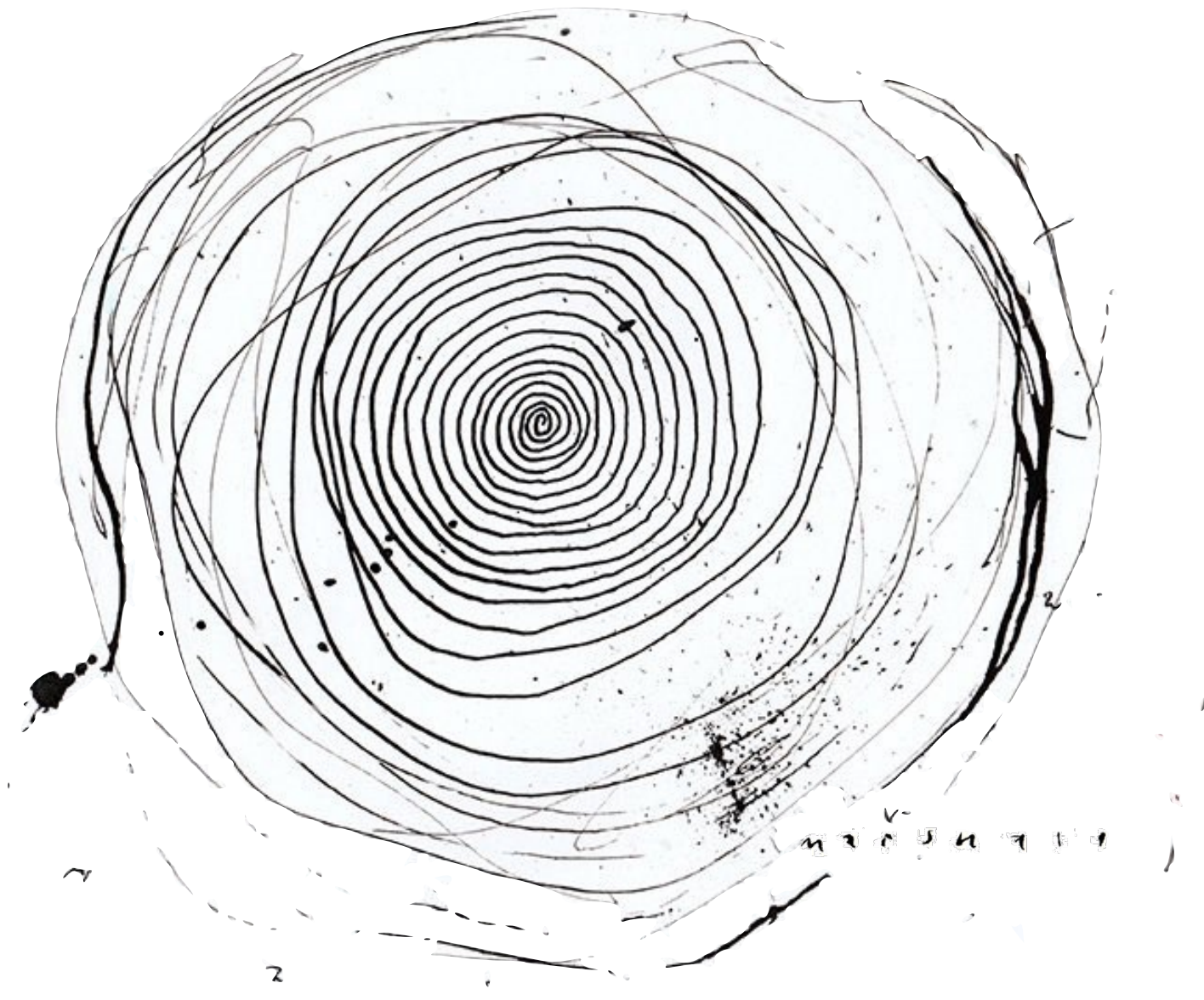


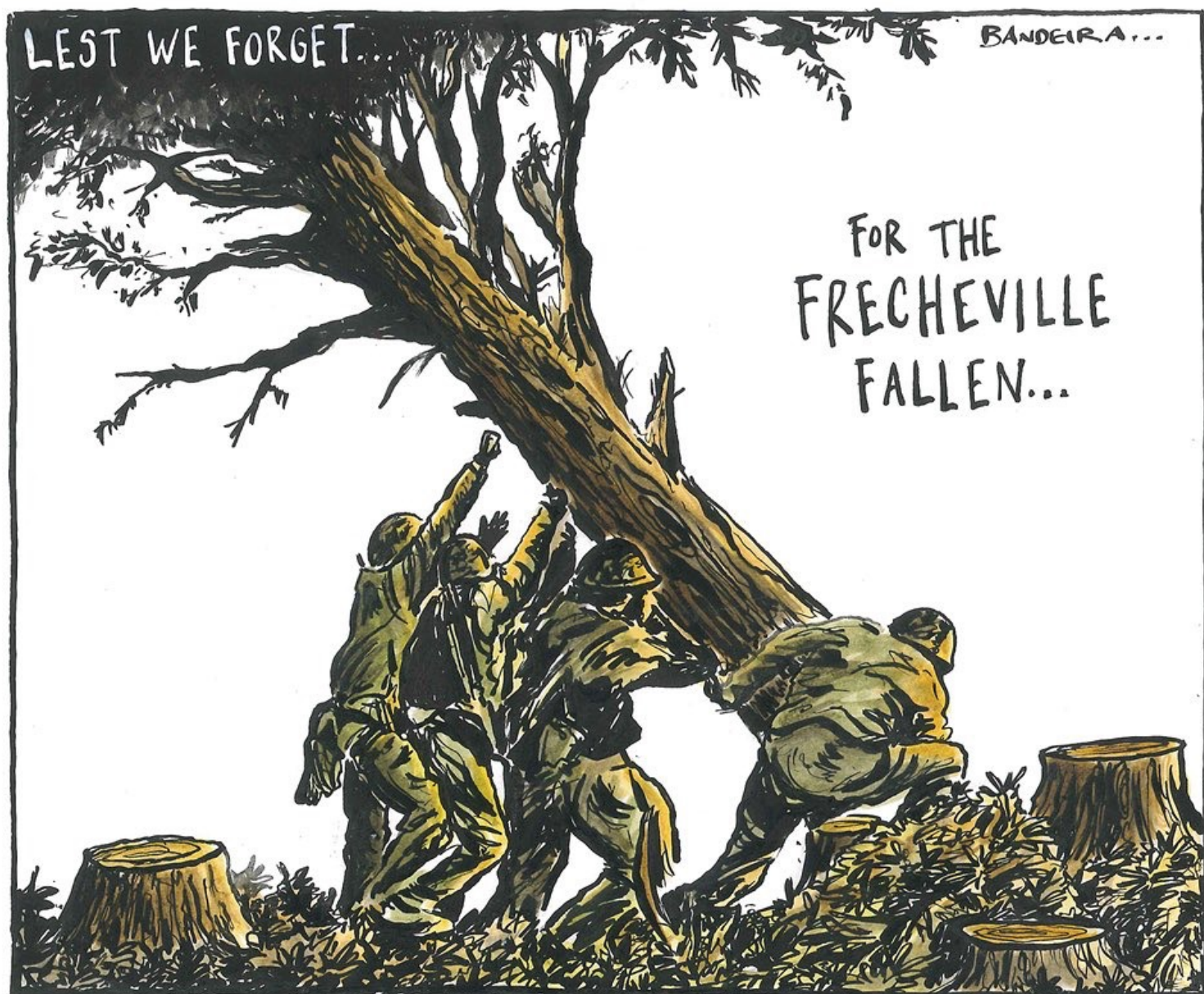
PRIVATE EYE

Rotten Boroughs Awards, Issue 1461 **Another Rotten year!**

MILLSTONE GRIT AWARD

To Sheffield city council for continuing to defend its unpopular £2.2bn highways contract with Amey, which entails the felling of thousands of trees in one of Britain's leafiest cities. (Ghastly things, trees. People might trip over their roots! Branches could fall on people's heads!) The Labour council is desperate to find a way out, fearing the fiasco will damage it at the polls in May, but ending the contract would cost a fortune.





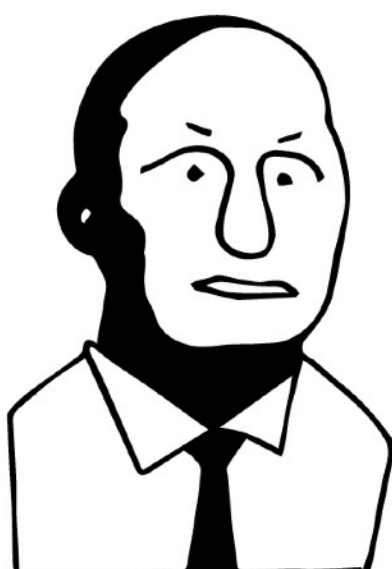
THE YORKSHIRE POST



BUILD THE WALL

DROP THE BOMB

CHOP THE TREES



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SAVE SHEFFIELD'S TREES



THE YORKSHIRE POST

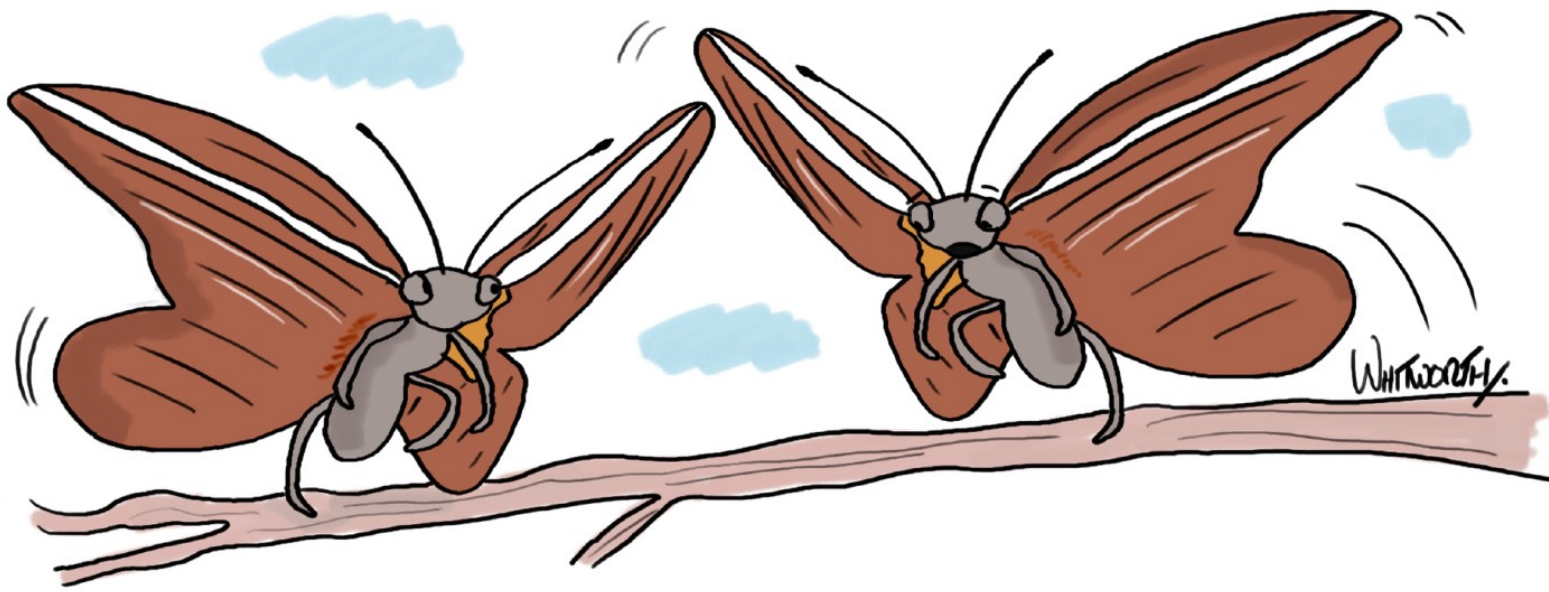
2012.. THE SIGNING OF THE CONTRACT



SAVE SHEFFIELD'S TREES



THE YORKSHIRE POST



"WE ONLY HAVE A LIFE EXPECTANCY OF A FEW WEEKS, BUT ON THE PLUS SIDE THAT'S LONGER THAN A SHEFFIELD TREE."

SHEFFIELD
TELEGRAPH



HEARTWOOD

WOULD YOU HEW ME
TO THE HEARTWOOD, CUTTER?
WOULD YOU LEAVE ME OPEN-HEARTED?

PUT AN EAR TO MY BARK, CUTTER,
HEAR MY SAP'S MUTTER,
MARK MY HEARTWOOD'S BEAT,
MY LEAVES' FLUTTER.

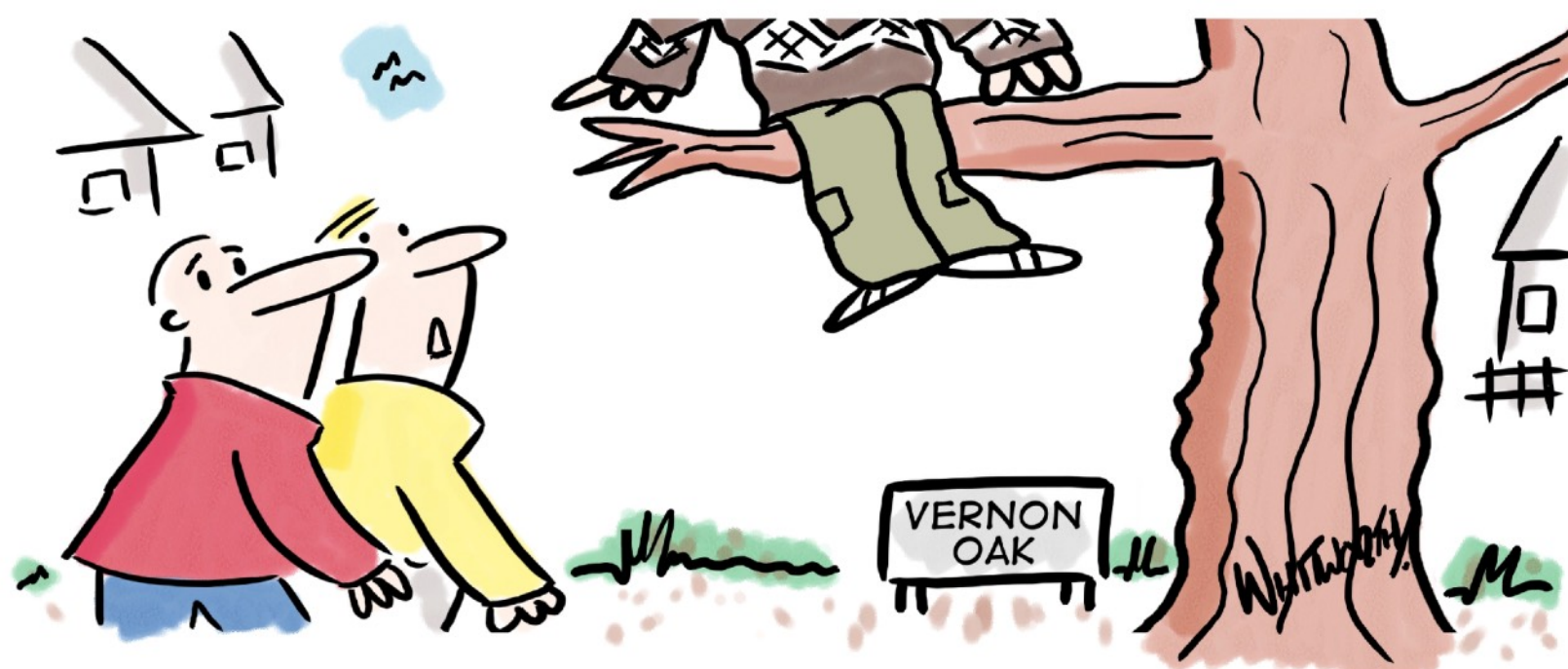
WOULD YOU TURN ME TO TIMBER, CUTTER?
LEAVE ME NOTHING BUT A HEAP OF LOGS,
A PILE OF BRASH?

I AM A WORLD, CUTTER,
I AM A MAKER OF LIFE –
DRINKER OF RAIN, BREAKER OF ROCKS,
CASTER OF SHADE, EATER OF SUN,

I AM TIME-KEEPER,
BREATH-GIVER,
DEEP-THINKER, CUTTER;
I AM A CITY OF BUTTERFLIES,
A COUNTRY OF CREATURES.

BUT MY WORLD TAKES YEARS TO GROW,
CUTTER, AND SECONDS TO CRASH;
YOUR SAW CAN FELL ME,
YOUR AXE CAN BRING ME LOW.

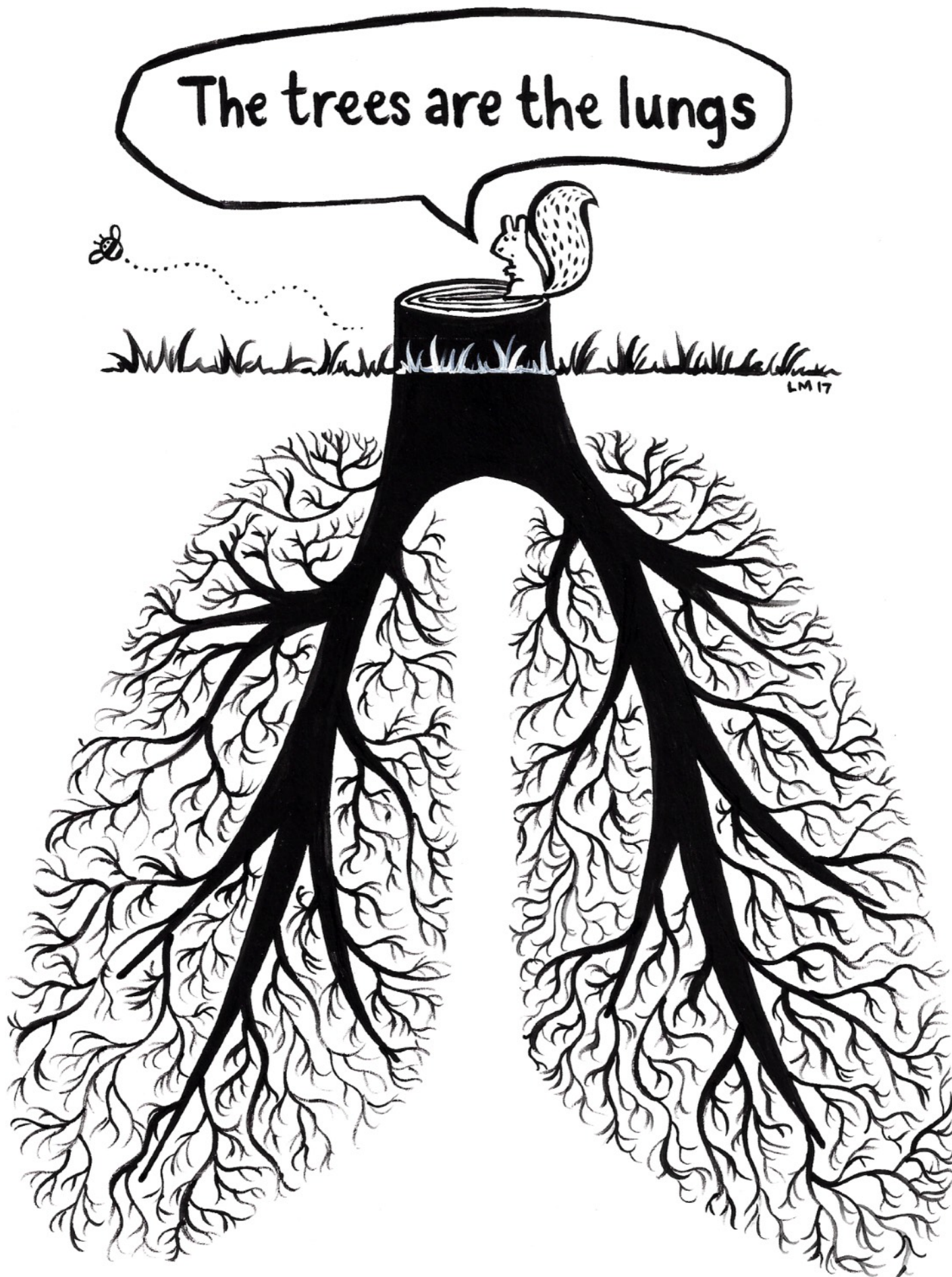
DO YOU HEAR THESE WORDS I UTTER?
I ASK THIS OF YOU –
HAVE YOU HEARTWOOD, CUTTER?
HAVE THOSE
WHO SENT YOU?



"IT MUST BE A GREAT VIEW FROM UP THERE - HE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE ALL THE PLACES THERE USED TO BE TREES."

SHEFFIELD
TELEGRAPH

The trees are the lungs



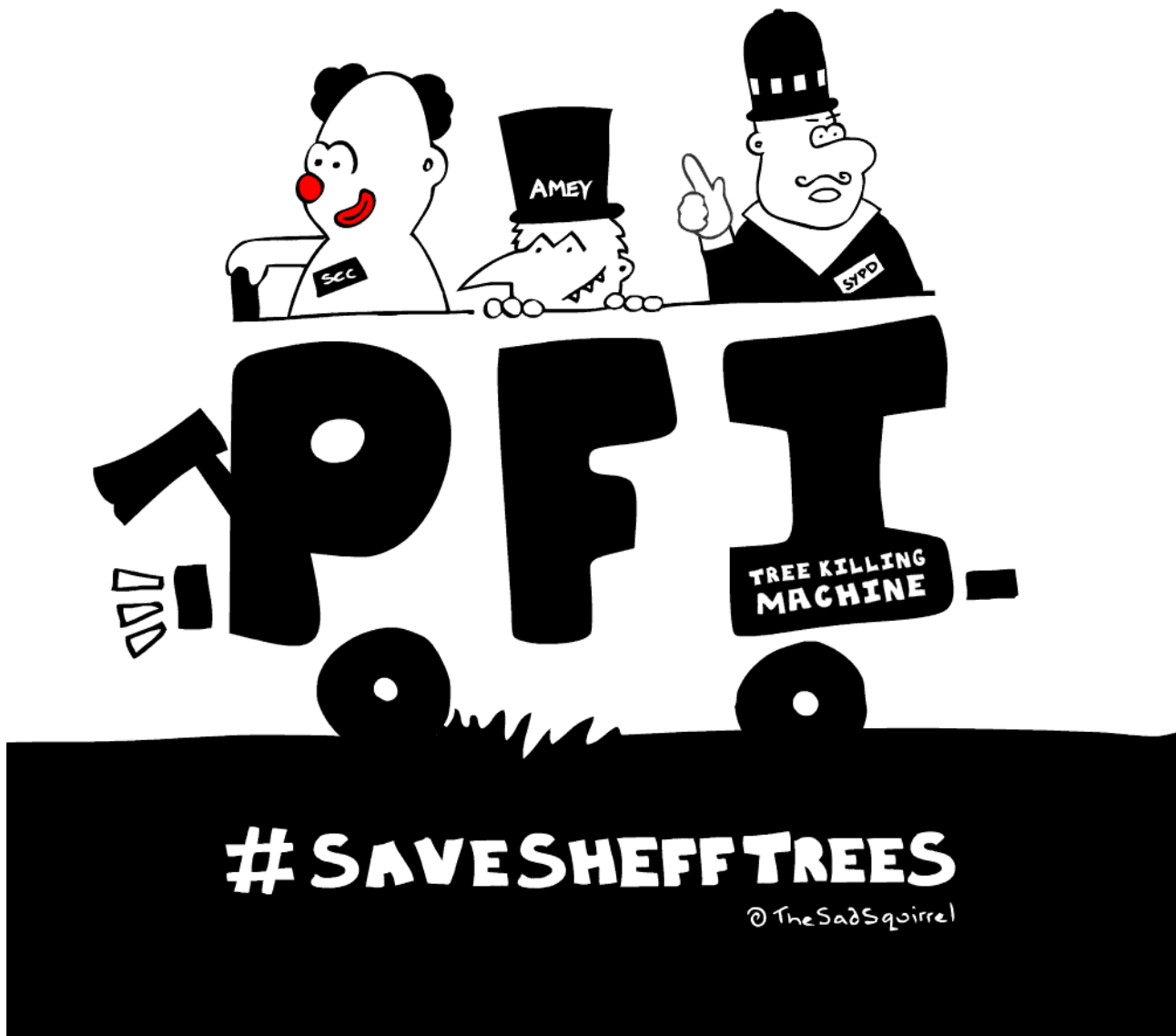


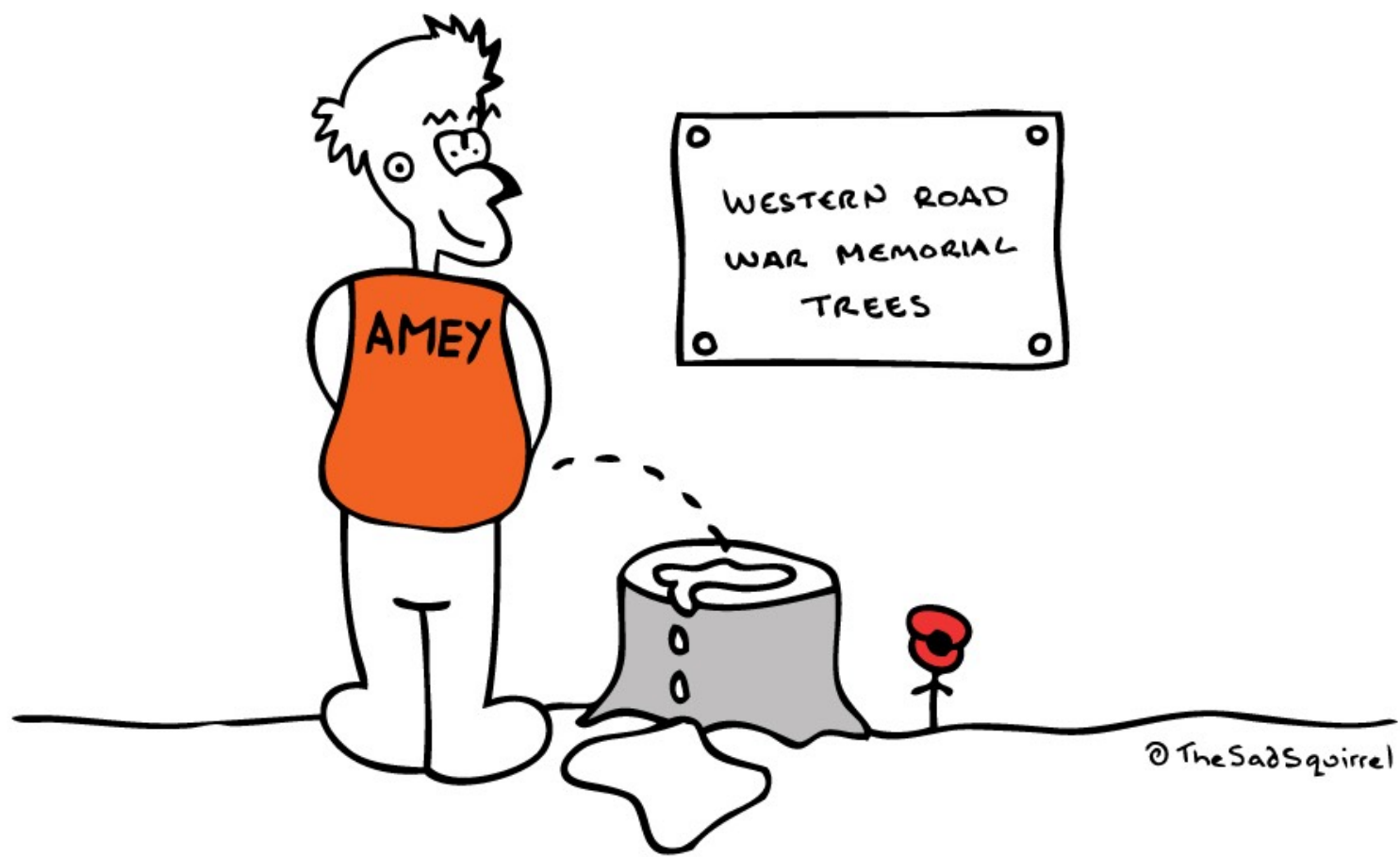
SHEFFIELD
TELEGRAPH











SAVE SHEFFIELD'S TREES

The Battle to Save Sheffield's Street Trees from PFI Destruction

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Tree Protectors

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[Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust - wildsheffield.com / Sheffield-Street-Trees.pdf](https://wildsheffield.com/Sheffield-Street-Trees.pdf)

woodlandtrust.org.uk

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Welcome To Sheffield... The Greenest City in Europe

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Sheffield Tree Campaign Takes Root

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[Police had 'no grounds' to use trade union laws to arrest ...](#)

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[How a Labour council brought the stamp of the jackboot to a British city | Daily Mail Online](#)

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[Petition · Save the 12 Trees on Rustlings Road, Sheffield](#)

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Vernon Oak

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Rivelin Valley

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Mappin Trees

[STAG. Sheffield Tree Action Groups \(Community Page\) | Today Amey have come for four of the avenue trees on the approach to the Botanical Gardens | Facebook](#)

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[Abbeydale Park Rise © Chris Morgan](#)

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[Right to protest](#)

[Right to protest in crisis as government seeks new powers to curb dissent, JUSTICE report warns](#)

[Lords warned Crime and Policing Bill must not restrict right to peaceful protest](#)

[Protest law: know your rights](#)

[No "Sign" of Contempt – The right of jurists to vote by conscience is upheld](#)

[PROTECT THE PROTEST](#)

[How Sheffield City Council are integrating Smart City technology](#)

[Digital Connectivity Strategy](#)

[Ferrovia Services and Sheffield City Council launch the Sheffield Smart Lab urban innovation programme](#)

[A report into the 'Smart City' or 'Future City' concept and how it should be adopted in Sheffield.](#)

["Judge who jailed fracking protesters with 'excessive' sentence has family links to oil and gas firm" | East Devon Watch](#)

[Judge who jailed fracking protesters with 'excessive' sentence has family links to oil and gas firm : r/ukpolitics](#)

Tree Campaign Essential Resources

[GuideToTreesAndTheLaw-Web.pdf](#)

[Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas - GOV.UK](#)

[House of Commons - Standard Note](#)

[Crowd Funder Example - Save Sheffield's Trees – Crowd Justice Fundraiser](#)

[Canopy.org.uk - THE UK UMBRELLA GROUP OF TREE CAMPAIGNERS](#)

[Woodland Trust - CHARTER FOR TREES, WOODS AND PEOPLE](#)

[Woodland Trust - TAKE ACTION IN YOUR COMMUNITY](#)

[Trees for Streets - STREET TREE RESOURCES\](#)

[Friends of the Earth - How to campaign for more tree cover in your area](#)

[Friends of the Earth - How to protect trees: a guide to Tree Preservation Orders](#)

[The Tree Council - Trees and Woodland Strategy Toolkit](#)

[Nolan Principles - The Seven Principles of Public Life](#)

[Information Commissioners Office - Request handling, Freedom of Information – Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Citizens Advice - Complaining to an ombudsman](#)

[Earth First! – Build a culture of active non-hierarchical grassroots ecological resistance](#)

[Direct Action Movement - What is Direct Action](#)

[The Commons Social Change Library - Nonviolent Direct Action \(NVDA\): Start Here](#)

[Sheffield Tree Protectors' Court Costs - a Community crowdfunding project in Sheffield by Chris Rust](#)

[Sheffield Street Trees Legal Fund Continuation - a Community crowdfunding project in Sheffield by Chris Rust](#)

[Full article: The Sheffield street tree dispute: a case of “ ...](#)

Sheffield Tree Plaque

ITV News: <https://www.itv.com/watch/news/plaque-commemorates-efforts-to-protect-thousands-of-sheffield-street-trees-from-wrongful-felling/yvh80k3>

The Yorkshire Post: <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/people/you-are-the-best-of-it>

BBC News Report: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy8kynzy91o>