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PRESS RELEASE: Charity calls for ringfenced funding for city trees

CPRE Sussex says trees are more than just a 'nice to have' for Brighton & Hove following packed public meeting.

The director of CPRE Sussex has written to Brighton & Hove city councillors following last night's packed and passionate meeting about the city's trees.

Paul Steedman is calling for the council to ringfence an initial £250,000 of the £3.6 million available from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to help restore the city's trees, with more ambitious plans to follow later.

The levy is due to be discussed by cabinet members on Thursday.

"There is huge public upset and anger about the very significant losses of trees on streets, in parks and in woodlands," said Mr Steedman. "These losses are being exacerbated by ash dieback and elm disease.

"At Monday's meeting, there was acknowledgement from all sides that the council's public communications around felling programmes, necessary as some of them may be, has fallen well short of what was needed.

"There is also a very strong desire to know how we go forward to turn the situation around. Yet an apparent lack of funds is one of the major blockers to woodland restoration and planting new trees. The very significant sums of money accrued and expected from CIL can help to answer that question."

CPRE Sussex is not suggesting money is diverted from the recommended seafront works, communities fund or the neighbourhood ward top-up.

It wants to see the council allocate an additional sum of money for tree planting, as well as encouraging councillors to bring forward street tree projects with groups in their areas to be funded by the Neighbourhood CIL element.

"Public trees must not be seen as 'nice to have' bonuses," said Mr Steedman.

"They are critical infrastructure for the city, delivering on the council's goals around physical and mental health, air quality, climate change, flood prevention, biodiversity and more."

Find out more about how CPRE Sussex is supporting tree planting across Brighton & Hove [here](#).

-ENDS-



The countryside charity
Sussex

For press inquiries and interview opportunities call Sheena Campbell on 07709 354924.

Notes for editors:

About CPRE Sussex

CPRE Sussex is shaping a greener future for Sussex. Our priorities are:

- Beautiful landscapes, rich in nature and greener towns and cities
- Countryside and green spaces which are accessible to all, enriching lives and health
- Sustainable development for thriving communities
- Effective responses to the climate emergency

We engage with decision makers, influencing them and challenging them to protect the Sussex countryside and green spaces. We inform on environmental issues and empower individuals and communities with robust evidence to defend and enhance the green spaces they love. We believe in collaborating with others to ensure a greener future for our county. We research and provide advice on planning issues. Together we can shape a greener future for Sussex.