



Registered with Civic Voice
www.dronfieldcivicsociety.org.uk

Chairman : JOHN HARVEY Secretary : JUDITH VERNIER

November 23rd 2010

Dear Sirs

Trackside Tree and Vegetation Removal – Dronfield

We have been contacted by a number of our members expressing their concerns over the recent trackside removal of trees, shrubs and other vegetation in Dronfield and would be grateful if you would answer the points which have been raised. The main complaints relate to the seemingly heavy approach taken by your contractors which appear to go far beyond normal pruning and clearance, have opened up large areas of land, which in turn has had an impact on wildlife habitats, train noise and has dramatically changed the landscape in a defined conservation area.

The main points we wish you to clarify are:-

1. How does the work undertaken in Dronfield sit with your policy of taking a neighbourly and sympathetic view to landscaping work of this type?
2. What notice or written information was put to residents bordering the railway in the area? Was there any dialogue with the local Dronfield Town Council?
3. Were your managers and contractors aware that the task was being undertaken in a conservation area? Was permission sought and granted to undertake this work?
4. What plans, if any, are in place to restock the area with more acceptable tree and shrub species?
5. What consideration has been given to the increase in train noise now experienced by residents?
6. What plans are in place to help wildlife habitats for birds, badgers and other animals? Were the contractors made aware of wildlife habitats e.g. badger sets prior to the work?
7. Have you considered how to prevent soil erosion and flooding now that embankments have been cleared?
8. Were residents advised of the time of day when this work was to take place? Was any consideration given to the effect of noise disturbance?

We understand health and safety implications in not carrying out this work, from time to time, but share our members' concerns that it appears to have been undertaken in a haphazard way that lacked any thought for the impact it has had on the town and its residents.

We look forward to your comments, and would be happy to meet with your management to enable us to get a clearer understanding of how future work will be carried out, and for us to report back to our members.

Yours faithfully

John Harvey - Chairman