

Petitioner:	Craig Jenkins
Petition:	More greenery on Wilton Road
Number of signatures:	215
The petition read as follows:	More greenery on Wilton Road The residents and businesses of Abbey Wood implore Bexley and Greenwich Councils to make use of available funding to plant suitable trees on Wilton Road in order to enhance the streetscape and improve air quality. Widely distributed upgrade plans for Wilton Road clearly include trees, however these have not materialised. This campaign strives, not only make people's experience of their surrounds better, but also improved health outcomes. This is also in accordance with Greenwich Council's stated commitment to more tree planting.

Cabinet Member:	Air Quality, Sustainability and Transport
Ward(s):	Abbey Wood
Directorate:	DRES

Submitted to Council on:	26 June 2019
Presented by:	Councillor Ann-Marie Cousins

## I. **Petition Response**

- I.1. In 2016/17 the Council planted five street trees on the western pavement of Wilton Road. This planting was part of a package of work to significantly improve the street scene and was delivered alongside a successful Mayors High Street Fund application provided by the Greater London Authority (GLA), which provided trader support and shop front improvements in partnership with the London Borough of Bexley (LBB). The trees are still young but all appear to have established.
- I.2. The density of the tree planting in Wilton Road is appropriate for the species and setting and these trees will continue to grow as they mature. Additional street tree planting would not be appropriate along the existing stand as it would become too dense, would limit footway space and would create dark spots in the street lighting.

1.3. There is insufficient space in the pavement on the eastern side of Wilton Road so tree planting is not possible on this side of the road (this area is within LBB).

2. **Current actions being taken in relation to matter raised in petition**

2.1. The Council and the LBB are currently delivering a joint scheme to significantly improve the public realm around the new Abbey Wood Station (in conjunction with Crossrail). New tree planting is proposed for the northern end of Wilton Road and Gayton Road (which lies entirely within LBB). The work is being led by LBB as the majority of work falls within their borough.

2.2. Unfortunately the tree planting initially proposed and included in publicity / information visualisation could not go ahead due to the presence of shallow underground services. As a result, LBB has committed to finding alternative planting sites within the works area. At the time of drafting this report the new planting sites have not been identified by LBB but officers will continue to work with LBB to ensure as much planting as possible (as appropriate) can be completed as part of the works.

2.3. Whilst the current tree planting along the existing stand of trees in Wilton Road is appropriate for the street there is opportunity to find new street tree planting sites within the immediate area. Officers are investigating planting sites in the area and expect several trees could be planted outside the old Post Office. Subject to satisfactory ground investigations this planting will be undertaken during the next (2019/20) planting season.

2.4. Officers will continue to work with LBB to ensure trees around the new station are planted where possible.