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Ian Henghes
Chair of Waterlow Park Trust Advisory Group

[by email]

Dear Ian,

Views of St Paul's Cathedral (Trust Advisory Group working group)

Thank you for chairing and inviting me to the Waterlow Park AGM at the end of May.

I write to follow up on our previous discussions and correspondence about the views of St Paul's Cathedral from the top of Waterlow Park.

The view of St Paul's Cathedral and surrounding skyline is a much-valued view from the park. Your proposals regarding trees and views and suggestion on how the view could be safeguarded has been presented in writing and shared with me on a visual walkabout last year. This is essentially to safeguard the sight line by creating a new 'view' that would require on going pruning of trees in the park.

It is unclear what the public opinion is on the conflicting issue of trees and views and what the trade-offs are in making this decision.

We talked previously about the need for a comprehensive community engagement exercise to understand what park users and local community members feel about these conflicting issues. This would build on some of the conversations that TAG has been having, ensure we have a broader reach as possible into the community, and that TAG, the Council team, including communications work together on this.

I feel that it is important that any community engagement exercise about these issues should take place when the trees are in leaf. Therefore, if you would like to progress this project this year, would you please come back to me with a suggested engagement plan about the proposals or make plans for next year. Following us reviewing this together, we could implement the pruning of the lower branches of the Downy Birch and mark up on site the proposed viewpoint perhaps by a temporary sign and spraying of the path if appropriate and start the engagement exercise

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carole Stewart", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carole Stewart
Director of Community Services and Trustee for Waterlow Park