

Dear Health and Wellbeing Board,

I heard of this board's existence this weekend through a project my son has been set in school. I've lived in Stretford for 20 years and my extended family live in Timperley and Altrincham, so I visit the more affluent areas of the borough regularly. I have been made aware this weekend that people in the more affluent areas of Trafford are living for longer in good health.

I want to make a plea and I'll keep it brief.

Stretford is ugly! We have a severe lack of street trees. Along with poor town planning, which means there's no distinguishable town centre, but I'm here for the street trees. Further south from here can definitely be called the leafy suburbs, but why do they get all the pretty trees?

Lower education levels, income, more alcohol dependence, less exercise, more smoking and consequently more depression are apparently what we're all up to here in the northern half of the borough. Wow, they are complicated issues to solve.

Planting more trees is simple step though! I'm sure you'll know all about therapeutic landscapes and their effects on mental health. We need to be given half a chance in the northern half of the borough, it's so scruffy and miserable looking. Trees would be an instant improvement and could be enjoyed for generations to come. Not to mention probably do a bit to negate air pollution. We've probably got the worse end of that too because we're next to Trafford Park.

I would be so very grateful and somewhat shocked, as I feel this is a long shot, if you could please mention my plea at your next meeting?

Thank you for your time reading this,

Kind regards,

Trafford resident.