**Role Cards**

**Resident: taxi driver**

You are a 45 year-old taxi driver with a wife and three children and you are the only earner in your household. You keep your car outside your house on the street with mature lime trees. You have to wash your car nearly every day as throughout the year there are bird droppings from pigeons sitting on the trees and in the spring and summer *sticky aphid juice* covers the car every day. This adds on time to your working day when you could be making money from fares. You would like the tree outside your house to be felled with no replacement.

**Older resident**

You are a 70 year-old woman living on your own**.** In the summer and autumn you have to keep the lights on in your house during the day as the branches of the tall street tree outside your house shade your house. Leaves, twigs and dirt from the tree is also constantly dropping into your guttering meaning that you have to have them cleaned out every few months. All of this is costing you extra money that you don’t have as a retired widow. You also feel depressed by how dark your house is inside in the summer. No sunlight ever gets in.

**Young resident**

You are a young resident, in your teens, and you love the trees on your street. You can see the trees from your bedroom window and find them very beautiful in every season. You also enjoy watching different birds that nest in the trees and the bats that fly around them catching insects in the evening. The tree outside your house has been there since you were born and you have seen it grow and change over the years. You feel deeply emotionally attached to the tree and would really miss it if it were gone.

**Older resident**

You have lived in the area all your life and you remember your mum telling you about how she was a little girl when the World War 1 memorial trees were planted to remember people who fought and died in WW1. One of those people was your granddad. You feel very angry and sad that the council might now chop these down.

**Resident who is a wheel chair user**

You use a wheel chair and in the last few years have found it very difficult wheeling down your street because of the bumpy pavement caused by tree roots. In some places you even have to move onto the road which is dangerous for you and cars. You have found it so difficult that you seldom go out down to the local shops or the park any more preferring to get in your car and go elsewhere.

**Tree Protector**

You live on the street with mature trees which you love for their shade and beauty. You are very concerned at the proposals to fell trees across the city, as you know how important they are for the well being of all residents.

They provide shade on hot summer days and improve the air quality of the whole city. Everyone knows that trees give us oxygen and help prevent traffic pollution giving people asthma, heart disease and dementia.

They can also help with reducing the noise from road traffic. You can really see the difference walking up your street when you leave the busy, tree-less main road at the bottom – the air is just fresher where the trees are.

**Wildlife Trust Representative**

You are a representative from the local Wildlife Trust. You are very keen to retain mature street trees for a number of reasons:

* Trees are needed for wildlife and biodiversity.
* Trees help with the problem of climate change by keeping the city cool, preventing floods and storing carbon.
* Some individual trees support rare species such as the White-letter Hairstreak butterfly.
* Mature trees are fantastic habitats for bats and other protected species.

**Forestry Commission Representative**

You represent a national body and are an expert on the law in relation to tree felling. The felling of trees is regulated in England by the Forestry Act 1967. You would like to make the following points:

* A younger tree can never replace the value of a mature tree.
* The Forestry Commission recognises that trees can cause maintenance issues for kerbs, pavements and road surfaces.
* Despite these issues, street trees are an essential part of the urban forest within a city, improving how the city looks and its ecosystem.
* There is a range of engineering and maintenance solutions that can easily be used throughout any tree’s life that allow both the tree and the highway to mutually co-exist. Thus providing safe, usable highways and a high quality well managed and maintained urban forest.