

**Comments by Bristol Walking Alliance on Planning Application  
19/04061/F | Public realm enhancements to Quaker Friars, Quakers  
Lane and Philadelphia Street BS1 3BU**



***Bristol Walking Alliance (BWA) welcomes improvements to the public realm, but objects to the removal of mature trees.***

In planning application 19/04061/F it is proposed to make a variety of improvements to the public realm around Quakers Friars.

BWA in general supports improvements to the public realm especially those that enable better access, improved public facilities, such as seating and toilets, and improved air quality.

According to the Design and Access statement accompanying this planning application, the proposed improvements are driven by the desire to maximise footfall to the Quakers Friars retail and restaurant area.

We support improving the attractiveness of the entrances to the area through the pavement artwork, a better defined event space in the centre of the plaza, additional seating, additional planting of trees and gardens, and the use of lighting to create a safe, welcoming environment.

We would urge the provision of some conventional bench seats along Philadelphia Street rather than the extensive use of blocks for seating. The latter are particularly difficult for those, such as the elderly, who need back support to sit comfortably.

**We object to the removal of six existing trees contrary to the TPOs which currently protect them.**

It is proposed to remove four fastigiata oaks in the plaza, supposedly because they conflict with two existing lighting columns, and also to remove two maples. All six of these trees are covered by Tree Preservation Orders. There is no tree survey included in the planning documents as part of the application to support removal of these trees.

Given the climate crisis and local air pollution concerns, the removal of any mature trees should only be undertaken for safety reasons. The lighting is to be upgraded anyway, so can surely be done to complement the existing trees.

Bristol Walking Alliance  
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