

# Nether Edge and Sharrow Sustainable Transformation (NESST)

## Annual General Meeting

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022



**NESST**

NESST, Nether Edge and Sharrow Sustainable Transformation, is a common endeavour by the community of Nether Edge and Sharrow to watch over, maintain and improve our urban environment.

# 1. Agenda

## **Formal Business**

- Chairperson's report on NESST's achievements in the last year – Paul Selby
- Treasurer's report on NESST's financial situation – Jo Millett
- Election of NESST committee members – Paul Selby

## **Presentation**

- Planting additional street trees in the NESST area: Revealing the locations – Paul Selby

## 2. Attendees

### Attendance at the NESST AGM Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022

- Paul Selby (Committee Member and Current Chairperson)
- Mark James (Committee Member, Current Vice Chairperson)
- Jo Millet (Committee Member, Current Treasurer)
- Rob Gawthrop
- Russell Johnson
- Glynis Jones
- Lynda Josse
- Ben Compai
- Sally Weston (Committee Member)
- Kythe Beaumont
- Andrew Buck
- Chris Sowerbutts
- Helen Kemp (Committee Member, Current Secretary)

### Apologies

- Gemma Pearson (Committee Member)
- Sarah Stevenson

#### NESST's achievements since 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

- Continuing the work of our predecessor organisation, Save Nether Edge Trees (SNET), to ensure the 160 street trees in our area (map shown on page 6) that the Council aimed to fell, were not actually felled. 70% of these are now formally saved, with nearly all the remaining third anticipated to be formally saved in the coming months. Progress at the Council is glacial, but the work continues.
- Continuing to work with Sheffield Council to persuade them not to fell 20+ large trees on Washington Road and Cemetery Road as part of the Connecting Sheffield initiative.
- Ensured most of the 74 additional street trees planted in the NESST area in early 2022 survived the driest and hottest summer the UK has ever had, by coordinating the watering of these trees. (Sadly, look at other parts of Sheffield to see what would have happened if we hadn't).
- Heavily supported the "Nether Edge Village" Covid Recovery Funds initiative. As a result, 20 further street trees will be planted near the Nether Edge crossroads in early 2023.
- Coordinated efforts to fund a further 44 street trees in the NESST area, 36 of which are on roads with no street trees currently.
- Began work with Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust to potentially launch a city-wide DED resistant elm planting initiative. Slow progress, but hopefully for 2023.
- Increasing NESST membership by another 10% in the last 12 months, to just under 450 members.
- Applying (hopefully successfully) to be part of Local Giving, which will give us access to Gift Aid, without having to become a Charity.
- We have mapped all the green and brown spaces in the NESST area, over 300 in total, of various sizes. With further work, we want to target the poorest managed of these, to increase their wildlife and biodiversity potential
- Led the S7 Swift initiative, and coordinated the erection of close to 30 Swift nest boxes in the S7 postcode area.
- Continued to run a series of Educational Talks and Walks each month, including:
  - The Sheffield Wheat Experiment
  - Tiny Forests in Sustainable Southmead
  - The Detroit Urban Gardening Movement
  - The Sheaf and Porter Rivers Trust
  - The importance of solitary bees
  - An evening walk along the Porter Valley
  - A weekend walk searching for the River Banner
- Comprehensively mapped all the House Sparrow colonies within the NESST area, in probably the most detailed survey of this species in a local geography that has ever been undertaken in the UK. This with the aim of using this familiar symbolic species to drive efforts to support and increase the population, which would benefit other wildlife species too.

#### However:

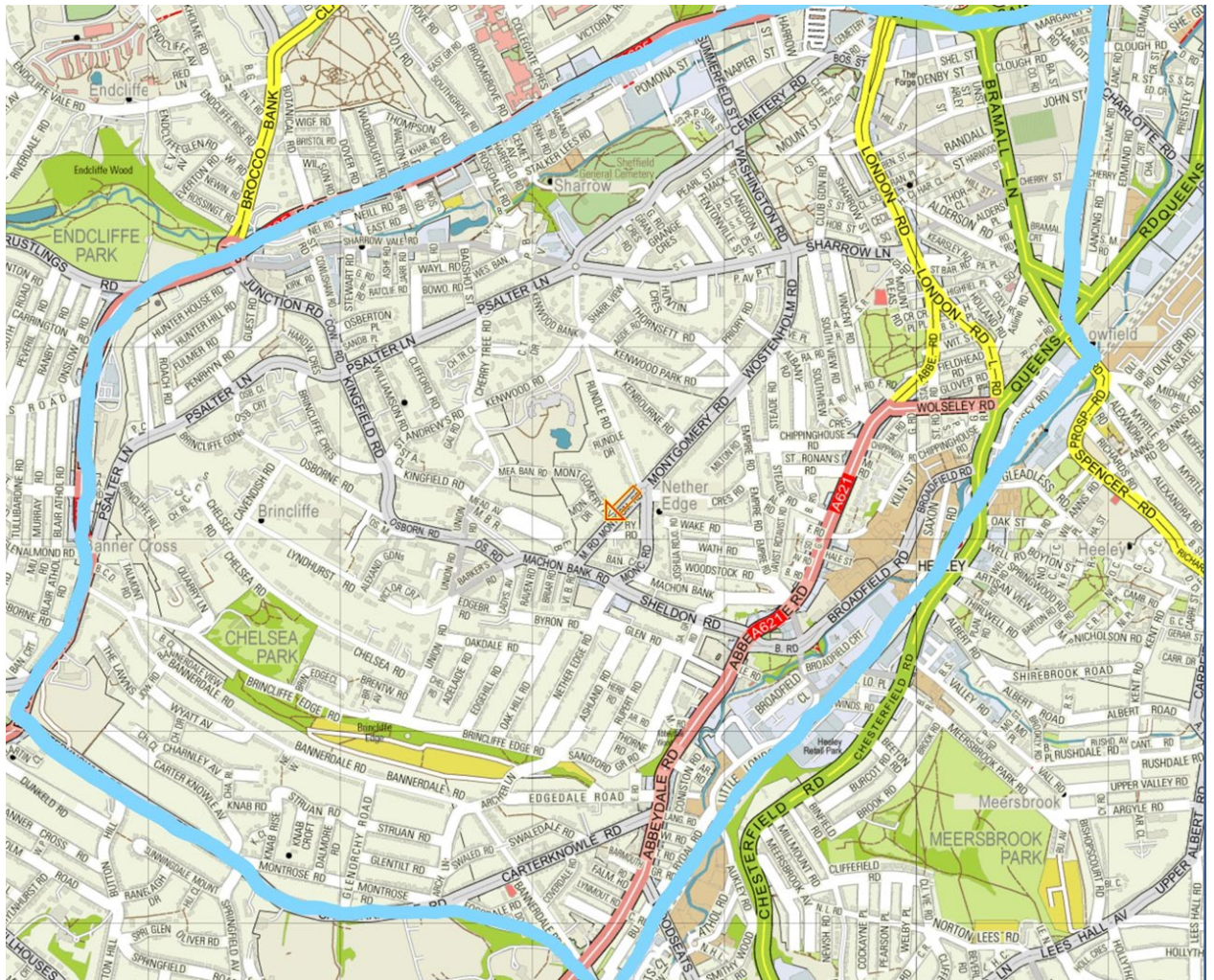
- These achievements are only occurring because of the coordinating activities of a very small number of people.
- 90% of this work was done by one person, who nearly burnt out this summer, and nearly had to step away.

- We have the administration capacity and membership willingness to do many great things if we call upon them to act.
- But we have virtually no coordinating capacity at all, and so we aren't calling upon them to act as much as we could.
- NESST is therefore not yet fulfilling its full potential.
- If we don't get more volunteers willing to coordinate initiatives, either from existing Committee Members or new Committee Members, we may have to retrench and focus only on one or two priorities.

**Amendments to Chairperson's Report: None.**

**The report was accepted as an accurate account of NESST's activities over the previous year.**

The NESST geographical area outlined in blue.





## 4. Treasurer's Report – Jo Millet

### NESST's financial situation

NESST bank account opened in August 2021

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| • Previous balance 6th November 2021                | £18,800.51 |
| • Income 6th November 2021 to 12th August 2022      | £10,357.27 |
| • Expenditure 6th November 2021 to 12th August 2022 | £22,022.61 |
| • Balance as of 12th August 2022                    | £7,135.17  |

#### Income

We received a payment of £1,000 from Sheffield Climate Alliance. The rest of the income consists of funds received from the crowdfunder and other payments into a number of project funds. As well as the general fund and the Additional Street Trees fund, we have had the Buckthorn for Brimstone fund, S7 Swift Boxes (both now closed) and more recently a House sparrow fund. We also receive funds for groups raising money for street trees on Glen Road and Joshua Rd.

#### Expenditure

Our main outgoing was the £19,489.99 paid to Sheffield City Council for street trees (£1,810.02 was then repaid by them for trees not planted) as well as payments for Buckthorn plants and Swift box materials and fitting.

#### Gift Aid

We await the outcome of an application made to Localgiving which if we are successful will allow us to claim Gift Aid without becoming a charity.

**Amendments to Treasurer's Report: None.**

**The report was formally adopted by NESST.**

## 5. Election of NESST Committee Members – Paul Selby

### Election of NESST committee members

Role	Current Committee Member	Proposed Committee Member
Chairperson	Paul Selby	Paul Selby
Secretary	Helen Kemp	Helen Kemp
Treasurer	Jo Millett	Jo Millett
Vice Chairperson	Mark James	Mark James
Membership Secretary	Sarah Stevenson	
Equal Opportunities and Diversity	Sarah Stevenson	
Education and Outreach	Mark James	Mark James

The proposed NESST committee members were duly elected.

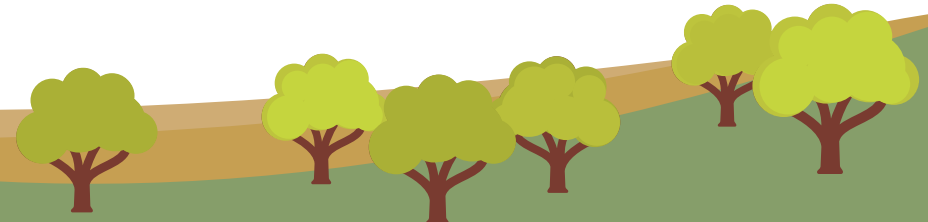
Two posts remain vacant.



## 6. Presentation of Planting Additional Street Trees in the NESST Area – Paul Selby

- The presentation was given by Paul Selby and revealed the locations of additional street trees planted in the NESST area.
- The presentation is in the following pages.

# Planting Additional Street Trees in the NESST area



# Funding the Trees

We've collectively raised

**£41,000**

in the last 12 months to  
fund the planting of

**60**

additional street trees.

**This total comes from:**

- £14,000 from the Nether Edge Village Covid recovery funds.
- Roughly £15,000 raised by groups of residents on Glen Road, Sandford Grove Road, Bowood Road, Wayland Road, Machon Bank, Joshua Road, Penrhyn Road, Sharrow Vale Road and Langdon Street.
- £2,000 from individuals willing to fund trees outside of their house
- £5,000 from an anonymous donor willing to “match fund” trees on roads with no trees and/or in less well off parts of the NESST area.
- Around £5,000 from the GoFundMe crowdfunder

The price of funding additional trees has increased significantly as a result of high inflation. Prices are now:

**Nearly £700**  
for a tree into tarmac

**Around £550**  
for a tree into a grass verge



# Map - overview

**37 trees** funded by SNET, NESST, STARTS, individual residents and groups of residents and planted in early 2022.

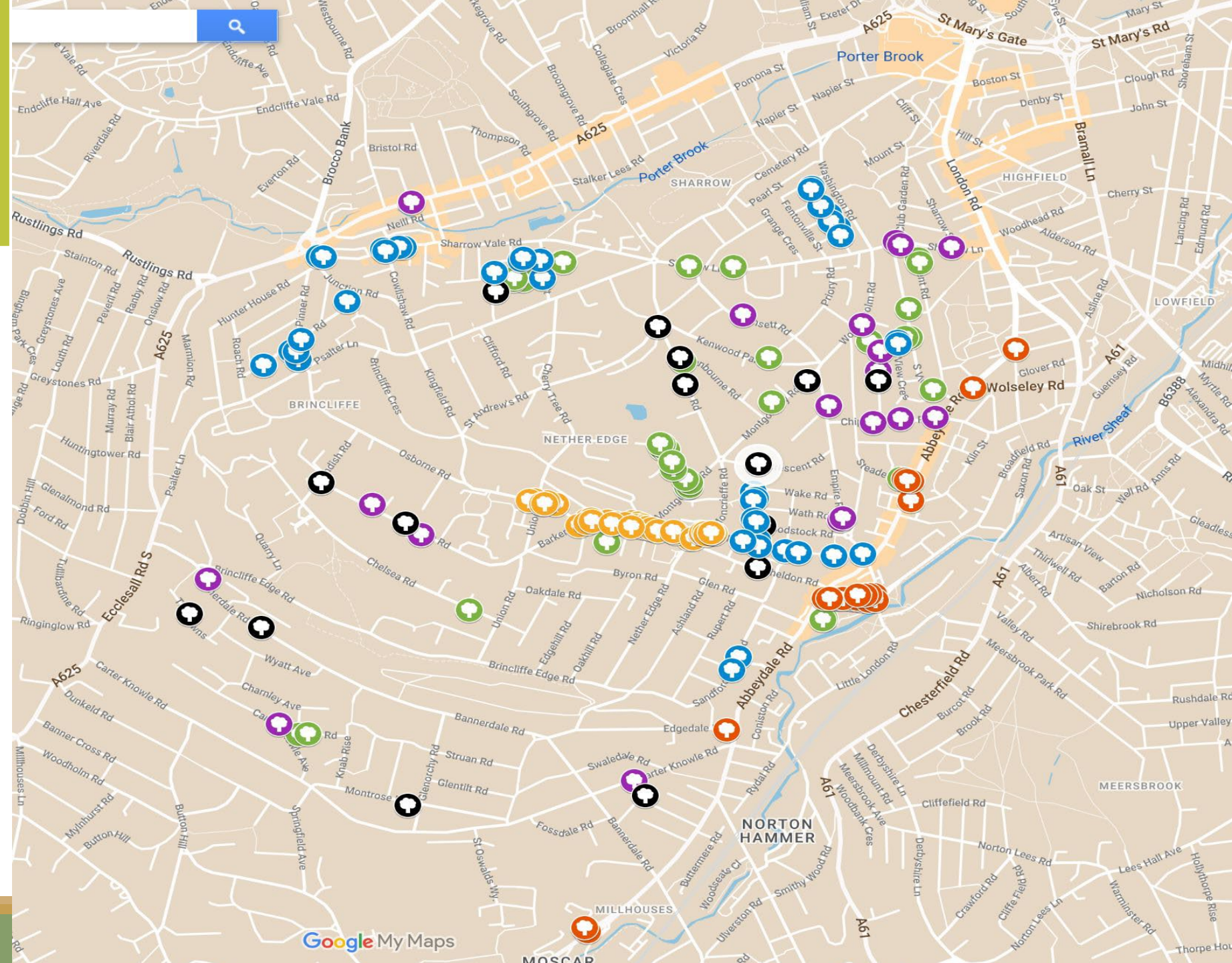
**18 trees** that were felled between 2008 and 2012, which Amey have an obligation to replant, but had been forgotten about.

**18 trees** that were felled due to disease or death between 2020 and 2022

**24 trees** funded by the Abbeydale Road trees initiative.

**40 trees** with funding coordinated by NESST to be planted in early 2023

**20 trees** funded by Nether Edge Village Covid recovery funds.





# What Next?

- The 60 additional trees funded this year will be planted in early 2023.
- Combined, the 121 trees funded over the last two years and the 18 “free” trees fill 3.3% of the 3650 locations I’ve identified in the NESST area where street trees could be planted.
- Which is a great start, but we have so much more to do.
- We need more people to do more.
- We’ve not even begun trying to raise funds from local companies.
- Most people in the area are still unaware of the process

## We need your help to fund even more!

- Donate to the crowdfunder
- Fund a tree outside your house
- Tell your neighbours and friends – spread the word
- Work with your neighbours to collectively raise funds for trees on your street
- Seek funding from businesses if you have contacts



AGM 2022

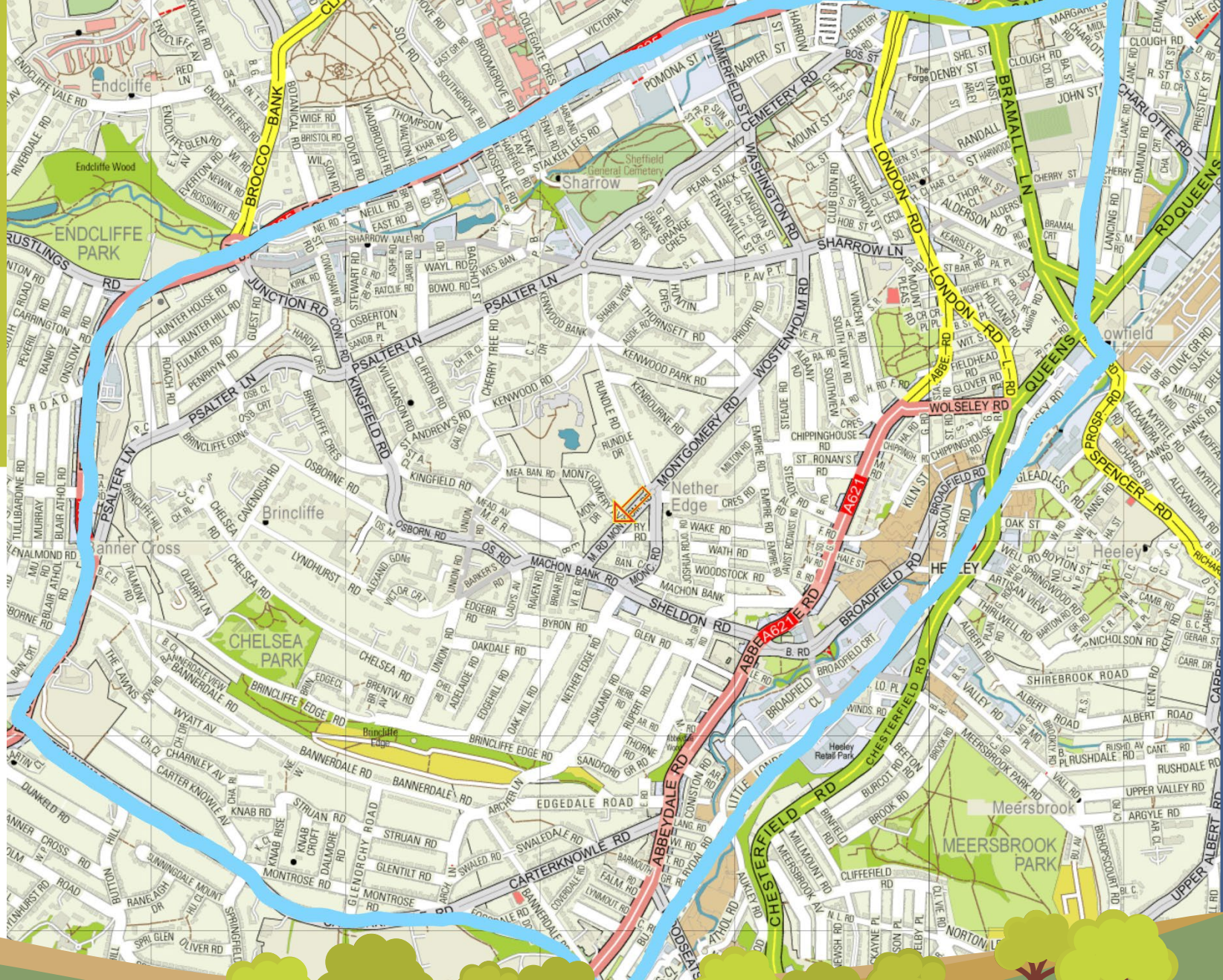




Thank you for attending the  
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