**Participant Information Sheet**

**Study Title**: Citizen attitudes towards a new tree planting programme in Southampton

**Researcher**: Helen Davies

**ERGO number:** 41035

***Please read this information carefully before deciding to take part in this research. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to tick a box online to indicate that you consent to taking part in this survey.***

**What is the research about?**

As part of my PhD research at the University of Southampton, I am conducting an online survey of Southampton’s residents. I wish to know your opinions regarding the funding of a proposed street tree planting programme to help address the city’s air pollution and flooding issues.

**Why have I been asked to participate?**

You have been chosen at random from the 76,500 residents of Southampton listed on the Council’s open electoral register.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you are willing to participate, this will involve filling in an online survey. We expect the survey will take you around 10-20 minutes to complete.

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

At the end of the survey, you will have the opportunity to enter into a prize draw for a chance to win one of four £50 gift vouchers (accepted in over 130 high street stores).

A summary of the information collected during this study will be shared with Southampton City Council, who may use it to support their goal of making Southampton a green, sustainable, healthy and attractive city, where people are proud to live and work.

**What data will be collected?**

The survey will ask you for your opinions regarding the funding of a proposed street tree planting programme to help address the city’s air pollution and flooding issues. At the end of the survey, we will ask you some standard socio-demographic questions (such as gender and ethnicity). This will enable us to identify whether the survey respondents are representative of Southampton’s population as a whole. The survey will not ask for any details that could identify you personally.

In compliance with the Data Protection policy of the University, all responses to the survey will be stored on a password protected computer, and used only by myself and my two supervisors for the purpose of my PhD research.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Yes. We will not know which of those people invited have chosen to respond to the survey; IP addresses will not be tracked, and the survey will not ask for your name or contact details. Your responses to the survey questions will therefore be completely anonymous.

 If you choose to be entered into the prize draw, you will be asked to click on a link at the end of the survey. This will take you to a separate webpage on the University’s iSurvey site where you can enter your name and address. This webpage is completely independent of the tree survey – names and addresses entered here cannot be linked to the survey data, and IP addresses will not be tracked. Your responses to the survey will therefore remain completely anonymous.

For those who enter the prize draw, we will only know your name, address, and the fact that you have participated in the survey (we will not know your survey responses). This information will be kept strictly confidential. Responsible members of the University of Southampton, and individuals from regulatory authorities, may be given access to this information for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, please type the following web address into your internet browser: [www.soton-tree.uk](http://www.soton-tree.uk). Please click the green button to indicate that you consent to taking part in my research. This will launch the questionnaire (which is hosted on the University’s iSurvey site).

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without your participant rights (or routine care if a patient) being affected. You may withdraw at any time during the survey simply by closing the webpage. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the responses you have provided up to that point for the purposes of achieving the objectives of the study only. We are unable to delete responses for particular individuals. This is because the survey is anonymous, and so we won’t know which responses were yours to remove.

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

A summary of the anonymous results will be made available to Southampton City Council and to the residents of Southampton by means of a 2-6 page University policy briefing, to be published on [www.soton-tree.uk](http://www.soton-tree.uk) later in the year. Summarised results of the research will also be made public through an academic journal article, as well as through the PhD thesis itself.

**Where can I get more information?**

If you have any queries (at any stage), please contact me at H.J.Davies@soton.ac.uk.

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions. If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk).

**Next steps:**

The survey can be found at [www.soton-tree.uk](http://www.soton-tree.uk). Please complete the survey no later than **Sunday 30th September 2018**.

**Thank you for your time and consideration!**

Helen Davies

Post Graduate Researcher

University of Southampton