

## **Appendix 1 – The prayer, presented at Full Council on 21 July 2021**

*Trees are vital to our physical and mental health. We call on Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to plant hundreds of trees, and halt further felling of mature trees in our neighbourhood. In the heart of North Kensington, Wornington Green was once an urban forest with more than 300 trees, a lovely park teeming with birds, and abundant wildlife. Through mismanagement and the poor planning involved in the development of Portobello Square, our green lung has been lost. Today, only 64 mature trees still stand – and 45 of those are on death row. The loss of these trees is devastating to an area with already high levels of air pollution, deprivation, and health inequality. We estimate the capital asset value of trees lost to be a staggering £20 million.*

*Trees take many decades to fully grow. Property developer Catalyst's plan to replace mature trees with a small number of tiny saplings and semi-mature trees is entirely inadequate. We call on Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to take the following actions to restore and protect an urban forest in North Kensington:*

- 1. To plant hundreds of trees in Golborne ward. Focused around Wornington Green, our urban forest will ripple out through the surrounding streets.*
- 2. To urgently halt the felling of any further mature trees as part of the Portobello Square development.*
- 3. To seek recompense from the developer, Catalyst, to the value of lost trees +10%, as well as cost of maintenance.*
- 4. To work with us to co-design a beautiful and sustainable urban forest for North Kensington.*