

Report of the Executive Director

TREE PLANTING1. Purpose of report

To update members on the initiative to provide 500 native trees suitable for domestic gardens free to Broxtowe Residents and a recent funding success for planting new trees on Parks and Open Spaces.

2. Background

The Council has a target to plant 2,500 trees each year across the borough as part of the tree planting strand in the Climate Change Strategy and Green Futures programme. Following the success of previous year's free fruit tree and ornamental tree initiatives, this year, as part of the contribution towards the target, 500 native trees are being offered to residents in the borough. Further details are provided in the appendix. Response to the scheme has been very positive and the successful applicants will be informed and arrangements for the allocation of the trees is now being co-ordinated. Given the success of the scheme it is proposed to repeat the initiative next year taking on board comments and feedback received.

Following a bid to the Urban Tree Fund notification has been received that the bid was successful with an award of £23,500. This is split between funding to supply and plant 56 Extra Heavy Standard trees and 3 years ongoing maintenance towards watering and aftercare of the trees. Further details are provided in the appendix

3. Financial implications

The cost of the 500 trees was £2,500. The estimated cost of distributing the trees on two days in January 2022 is £1,850. These costs will be contained in the 2021/22 revenue budget allocated for Tree Management. The £23,500 funding from the Urban Tree fund when received will be allocated to the same revenue budget split over 4 financial years through to 2024/25

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to NOTE the report.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX

Details of Native Trees

The theme choice of native trees is very appropriate to the Climate Change Strategy and Green Futures Programme. All the trees were sourced locally. Trees have the benefit of connecting people and families when planting and then observing them grow and establish. The trees also have the added benefit of providing a valuable habitat for birds, a source of pollen for bees and pollinating insects and fruit for birds and various mammals in the autumn/winter.

The species chosen are detailed below.

Prunus avium (Wild Cherry)

A medium sized deciduous tree. Produces clusters of white flowers 2.5cm wide in late spring, followed by small shiny red-purple cherries.

Corylus avellana (Hazel)

A spreading deciduous tree with rounded leaves that turn yellow in the autumn. The tree produces yellow catkins in spring followed by edible hazel nuts in the autumn. It can be coppiced to contain its size.

Crataegus monogyna (Common Hawthorn)

A small, rounded deciduous tree with glossy leaves which produce clusters of white flowers followed by dark red berries in autumn.

Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan, Mountain Ash)

A small to medium upright deciduous tree with flat clusters of white flowers in late spring followed by orange-red berries in early autumn. A perfect tree that has great value to wildlife, leaves are eaten by caterpillars, flowers provide pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinating insects. The berries provide autumn food for birds.

Acer campestre (Field Maple)

A medium sized deciduous tree with small dark green shiny leaves that turn rich golden yellow in the autumn. Flowers are small cup shaped that hang in clusters that develop into large winged fruits that disperse in the wind. Another tree that has great value to wildlife.

The trees will be between 1.0 and 1.5m in height and will be supplied with an information leaflet about the varieties of tree and details as to how the plant and care for them.

Urban Tree Fund

The fund is designed to increase urban tree cover, helping mitigate climate change and increase biodiversity. The fund was very heavily oversubscribed so the award reflects well on the bid submitted. Unlike many funding sources this one, as well as funding the trees and planting, also allows for tree after care. There is therefore a good budget for watering and nurturing the trees until they become established.

The assessment of the bids was weighted based on fixed scoring criteria. The sites chosen took this into account.

- Priority people (locations that are in an area of deprivation)
- Priority places (locations that have lower tree canopy cover)
- Proximity of healthcare establishments (close to a Hospital or GP surgery)
- Proximity of educational establishment (close to a School).

The sites selected for the bid are detailed

Cator Lane Recreation Ground, Chilwell - 10 trees

Manor Farm Recreation Ground, Toton – 14 trees

Pasture Road Recreation Ground, Stapleford – 10 trees

Sherman Drive Open Space, Toton – 10 trees

Pit Lane Recreation Ground, Trowell – 12 trees