

## Report of the Interim Strategic Director

**TREE PLANTING**1. Purpose of report

To update members on the latest proposals relating to tree planting in the borough.

2. Detail

The Council has for many years been committed to planting trees across the borough and has been successful with various campaigns including the 100,000 tree planting initiative which achieved in excess of 100,000 new trees planted in the borough over approximately a seven year period.

It is appropriate however to once again review the benefits of tree planting and look to ways in which new trees can be planted in the borough. The appendix details the benefits of trees and a strategic approach to tree planting with proposals as to how this can be implemented.

3. Financial implications

There are no financial implications at this stage, with any costs incurred by the Borough Council contained within the revenue budget for Tree Management.

**Recommendation**

**The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the measures detailed in the report to increase tree planting be approved.**

Background papers

Nil

## APPENDIX

**1.0 Tree Planting****1.1 Benefits**

It is recognised that trees are a very valuable community asset and are the most visible element of the Council's Green Infrastructure. They have a wide range of environment benefits which include:-

- Helping to combat climate change – Trees absorb CO<sup>2</sup>, removing and storing the carbon whilst releasing the oxygen into the air.
- Cleaning the air – Trees absorb and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.
- Reducing summer temperatures – Trees provide valuable shade on Parks and Open Spaces
- Helping to prevent water pollution and soil erosion – Trees reduce storm water runoff and help stabilise soils.
- Contributing to overall wellbeing of the community – Trees make people feel good when visiting a park or open space.
- By providing food – Trees provide a very valuable food source in the form of fruits, nuts and leaves for birds, wildlife and humans.
- By bringing the community together – Tree Planting projects and ceremonies provide a valuable opportunity to involve the local community.
- Providing a habitat for wildlife – Trees and Woodlands provide excellent habitat for a diverse range of species.
- Creating places for children to play – A woodland is an exciting adventure playground for children of all ages.
- Forming an important screen – Trees can hide or obscure unsightly views, buildings and help reduce noise.

The importance of trees will only increase in future years as population density and usage of green spaces increases.

**2.0 Strategic Approach to Tree Planting**

The Corporate Plan 2016-2020 has as its vision to make “Broxtowe a great place where people enjoy living, working and spending leisure time”

Trees contribute significantly to this vision through many of the benefits highlighted above. The strategic vision for tree planting is to maximise the number of new trees planted in the borough. To do this and to help ensure that trees continue to be planted the Council needs to work with a wide variety of different agencies to maximise opportunities.

There are 3 categories of tree planting that the Council has direct involvement in:

1. Replacement planting of trees that are removed as part of identified works.
2. New planting programmes in areas where there are limited trees and the potential exists to increase numbers.

3. Project planting i.e. creation of plantations, working with local developers on new housing projects, community group initiatives, working with other agencies.

## **2.1 Replacement Planting**

This will take place as a result of programmed works following the removal of trees by the Borough Council for reasons of safety, good tree management, storm damage or vandalism. An assessment will then be made by the Parks team to see if a replacement tree is required and an appropriate location can be identified. Planting will then typically occur in the planting season between November and February following the removal of the tree. On average between 50 and 75 trees are removed by the Borough Council each year mainly for reasons of safety or good tree management.

## **2.2 New Planting Programme**

This will look to undertake works in areas where there is potential to increase tree numbers. It may require consultation with local residents and people who use the sites.

Tree species and sizes will be selected that are appropriate to the location. It is important to include a diverse mix of species to limit future vulnerability to pests and diseases.

It is also important to recognise that there are areas where trees have previously been damaged or specifically targeted for vandalism. In most instances it is those areas that would benefit most from the establishment of new trees. In such areas it is important to consider the size of trees to be planted and the method of staking to try and minimise the potential for damage.

In all cases for both replacement and new planting the site will be assessed in terms of adjacent structures/features, underground restrictions, above ground constraints and historical or on-going subsidence claims.

## **2.3 Project Planting**

This is one of the key areas where new trees can be planted. Working with Planning Officers, the opportunity to include additional individual trees and large blocks of tree planting has been encouraged as landscaping schemes have been submitted for new developments. There have been initiatives with Groundwork Greater Nottingham, Greenwood Community Forest and The Conservation Volunteers which has seen new areas of planting identified and works undertaken.

## **3.0 Strategic Objectives**

Both the Environment and Health Key Priorities in the Corporate Plan 2016-2020 are influenced by tree planting.

Environment – “The environment in Broxtowe will be protected and enhanced for future generations”

The Corporate Plan states that we will work to improve the Green Infrastructure of Broxtowe. Tree planting is key to this and must be seen as a long term investment with the trees planted today being there for future generation to enjoy and value.

Health – “People in Broxtowe enjoy longer active and healthy lives”

The Corporate Plan states that we will increase the number of people who have active lifestyles. Planting trees and making areas of green space more attractive encourages people to use and be more active in these areas. Tree planting also offers shade and quiet areas for reflection within green spaces.

#### 4.0 What has been achieved?

As already mentioned the 100,000 Tree Campaign was very effective with large areas of new tree planting, woodland and hedges planted. One major success was the planting of new trees within the old Landfill Site / Sand quarry on Coventry Lane which saw over 5,000 trees planted. The first phase of this area has now been transferred back to the Council and is being opened up as an extension to Bramcote Hills Park.

Other noticeable successes include planting at Colliers Wood and Brinsley Headstocks working with the Friends Group at these sites.

#### 5.0 Way Forward/Action Plan

The Council will continue to develop the 3 categories of tree planting identified in the report and will look to seek opportunities for external or partnership funding to help achieve these objectives. New planting projects and schemes will be promoted through the Pride in Parks initiative and will involve community groups and other agencies as appropriate.

Year	Action
Year 1 - 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consult and engage with different agencies/partners to identify potential areas for new planting projects.</li> <li>2. Target of 1000 trees planted.</li> </ol>
Year 2 - 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consult and engage with different agencies/ partners to identify potential areas for new planting projects.</li> <li>2. Target of 1000 trees planted.</li> <li>3. Review works in year 1.</li> </ol>
Year 3 - 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consult and engage with different agencies/ partners to identify potential areas for new planting projects.</li> <li>2. Target of 1000 trees planted.</li> <li>3. Review works in year 2.</li> </ol>
Year 4 - 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consult and engage with different agencies/ partners to identify potential areas for new planting projects.</li> <li>2. Target of 1000 trees planted.</li> <li>3. Review works in year 3.</li> </ol>
Year 5 - 2023	Review strategy and determine approach moving forward.