

Report for: Environment and Community Safety Panel 3rd November 2020

Title: **Street Tree Planting and Queens Wood Trees update**

**Report
authorised**

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Lead

Officer: Simon Farrow: Head of Parks and Leisure (Interim)

Ward(s)

affected: ALL

1. Introduction

1.1 This update to the panel provides information on both the councils street tree planting programme for 2020/21 and the four oak trees in Queens Wood which are implicated in a subsidence claim.

2. Street Tree Funding

2.1. Street Tree Planting is funded in Haringey through a number of sources and these include:-

- Council Capital
- External Grants
- Regeneration Projects
- Sponsorship
- One off projects
- Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy
- Ward Budgets
- Donated Trees
- Planting by Partners

2.2. Council Capital – Tree Planting is funded from two parts of the council’s capital programme. The first part is the Streets and Greenspace Greening Programme which is a new programme this year and will fund tree planting on streets and within greenspaces over the coming years. There is a council allocation of £70,000 per annum. In addition to this specific new funding the council also funds new street planting via its Borough Roads programme. Where street paving renewal is taking place opportunities to plant new trees are identified where these will not interfere with underground services.

2.3. External Grants – The Parks and Leisure Service has a good track record of securing external funding from funders such as the GLA and DEFRA. Bids are made on annual basis and where secured are included in the capital programme.

2.4. Regeneration Projects – From time to time regeneration projects include tree planting and these trees are planted as part of the wider annual programme.

- 2.5. Sponsorship – The council operates a tree sponsorship which allows private individuals or groups to sponsor one or more trees in a specific location. The current cost of tree sponsorship is £250 a tree. Trees can be sponsored on streets and in parks.
- 2.6. One off Projects – Occasionally projects crop up which deliver new tree planting.
- 2.7. Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy – new for 2020/21 funding is being made available for tree planting across a number of wards.
- 2.8. Ward Budgets – although no longer available tree planting has been funded through ward budgets. Some planting will take place this year from money carried over.
- 2.9. Donated Trees – from time to time the trees are donated to the council and planted within the borough. Recent examples donated to MP's by extinction rebellion planted in Finsbury Park or trees relocated from the Kings Cross Development into Hartington Park.
- 2.10. Planted by Partners –The Conservation Volunteers, Trees for Cities and the Friends of Parks are regularly planting trees within Haringey.

3. Tree Planting and Maintenance costs

- 3.1. The cost to plant and undertake sufficient maintenance to establish the tree costs circa £600 per tree. There are several costs which taken together add up circa £450 to plant a tree. The cost elements are as follows:-
 - Creation of the tree pit if not reusing an old tree pit
 - Purchase of the tree
 - Planting of the tree
 - Tree Guards
 - Tree Stakes and ties
 - Tree Irrigation pipe and tree watering gator
- 3.2. To properly establish a newly planted tree we undertake three years of maintenance which includes the following at a cost of £50 per annum: -
 - Watering for three summers
 - Annual inspection of the tree
 - Formative pruning
 - Tensioning of ties
 - Replacement of guards and gators as required due to damage or theft
- 3.3. Tree planting costs for sponsored trees are reduced to encourage donation.

4. 2020/21 Tree planting Season

- 4.1. This year there will be a larger than usual tree planting programme and the council will plant more than 794 trees across a total of 13 wards. A further 22

trees will be available to plant in priority locations within other wards. This year's tree planting will take place in three tranches:-

Tranche 1

- 4.2. The first tranche of planting for this winter will be planting the 110 trees that were postponed in spring 2020 because of the impact of the Covid lockdown. They include five projects funded in the following ways. We intend to complete the planting of these trees by the end of November 2020.

External Grants

- GLA Greener City Fund – 14 new trees in green areas – The Sandlings estates, N22 – Noel Park Ward

Regeneration Projects

- Wood Green regeneration – 42 new street trees -Noel Park ward

Sponsorship

- Ladder Roads – 6 new street trees sponsored by LCSP – Harringay Ward
- Various roads and parks – 15 new trees sponsored by residents

One off projects

- Network Rail Biodiversity offsetting – 18 new native trees in green areas - Ferry Lane estate – Tottenham Hale

Ward Budgets

- Ward budget - 15 new street trees – Alexandra ward

Tranche 2

- 4.3. The second tranche of planting will be 584 trees funded by external grants from DEFRA/GLA and the Council capital programme as part of the Urban Tree Challenge project. The 584 new street trees will be planted in the nine Council wards that have less than 20% existing canopy cover. The wards are listed below with the number of trees allocated to each ward. Surveys to identify potential planting sites will be carried out during Oct to Dec in the order the wards are listed. The planting is scheduled to take place between 1st December 2020 and 5th March 2021.

- Hornsey - 48
- West Green – 48
- Seven Sisters - 31
- St Ann's - 48
- Tottenham Green - 62
- Bruce Grove - 95
- Noel Park – 95
- Woodside - 95
- Northumberland Park – 62

Tranche 3

- 4.4. The third tranche of planting for this winter will be planting the 122 trees that are being funded from several sources. They include three projects funded in the following ways. We would aim to complete these additional projects during March and early April 2021.

Capital Funding

- Most of the Council's capital funding allocation is being used to match fund the DEFRA/GLA grant for the Urban Tree Challenge project. However, there sufficient remaining to plant 22 trees in priority locations in wards that aren't benefiting from other tree planting this season.
- New trees may also be planted as part of new footway refurbishment projects and regeneration schemes.

Sponsorship

- Residents in Glenwood Road, N15 have raised sponsorship money to plant 20 new street trees in the road (St Ann's Ward).

Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy

- Highgate – 40 trees
- Bruce Grove, Tottenham Hale and Tottenham Green - 40 trees (shared between the 3 wards)

5. Overall Tree Planting Plan by Ward during 2020/21

Alexandra	15
Bruce Grove	108
Harringay	6
Highgate	40
Hornsey	48
Noel Park	151
Northumberland Park	62
Seven Sisters	31
St Ann's	68
Tottenham Green	75
Tottenham Hale	32
West Green	48
Woodside	95
Various streets and parks	15
Other Wards TBC	22
	816

- 5.1. Fortis Green, Stroud Green, Muswell Hill, Bounds Green, Crouch End, White Hart Lane Ward will be prioritised for tree planting during 2021/22 and 2022/23.

6. Queens Woods Trees

- 6.1. At the Panels meeting of the 3rd September 2020 the panel received a deputation from a community protest group called SHIFT (Stop Home Insurance Felling Trees). The deputation brought to the attention of the Panel the plight of four oak trees in Queens Wood that are implicated in a subsidence claim affecting the adjacent house.
- 6.2. The council has undertaken its own evaluation of the claim by AXA insurance that the roots of five councils' trees were allegedly responsible for damaging the property insured by AXA. The council has considered the evidence provided by AXA and had agreed to remove four of the oak trees. The alternative being for AXA to proceed with underpinning the property and recovering the costs of circa £270,000 from the council.
- 6.3. Through the campaigning of SHIFT they were able to bring to the attention of senior managers within AXA the plight of the four trees. AXA have since agreed to undertake further technical assessments to establish if there are any alternatives to the removal of the four oak trees.
- 6.4. These investigations are ongoing, and AXA have so far issued three four week stays of requiring any removal of the trees. The latest stay will expire on Friday 13 November 2020.