



Trees

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Queens Wood

- ▶ Five Oak trees within Queens Wood have been identified as contributing to subsidence affecting an adjacent house on Wood Vale.
- ▶ The subsidence has been investigated and tree roots are present at the wall of the house.
- ▶ The Council, like any property owner, has a duty to ensure tree roots do not trespass and cause damage on to a neighbours property.
- ▶ In the event that tree roots do trespass on to a neighbours land and cause damage then the Council can be liable for some or all of the cost of the damage.
- ▶ Although the property is insured, the insurers will seek to recover the costs from a third party where there is liability for the damage.
- ▶ The Council has to address the “trespass” of the roots to prevent further damage. In many cases it is not possible to do this without affecting the viability / stability of the tree. Therefore, removal is the only option.
- ▶ This will also go some way to mitigating the costs the insurers may seek to recover from the Council.

Queens Wood - Current situation

- ▶ The Council has previously agreed to remove four of the five trees identified.
- ▶ A public campaign against the insurers was launched in 2019 regarding the insurers position in seeking compensation for the damage to the house, which would lead to the loss of four mature oak trees.
- ▶ Through a period of engagement the insurers agreed to undertake a 12 month period of further monitoring.
- ▶ That period of monitoring ends in December.
- ▶ The Council expects to receive an update sometime in the first three months of 2022.

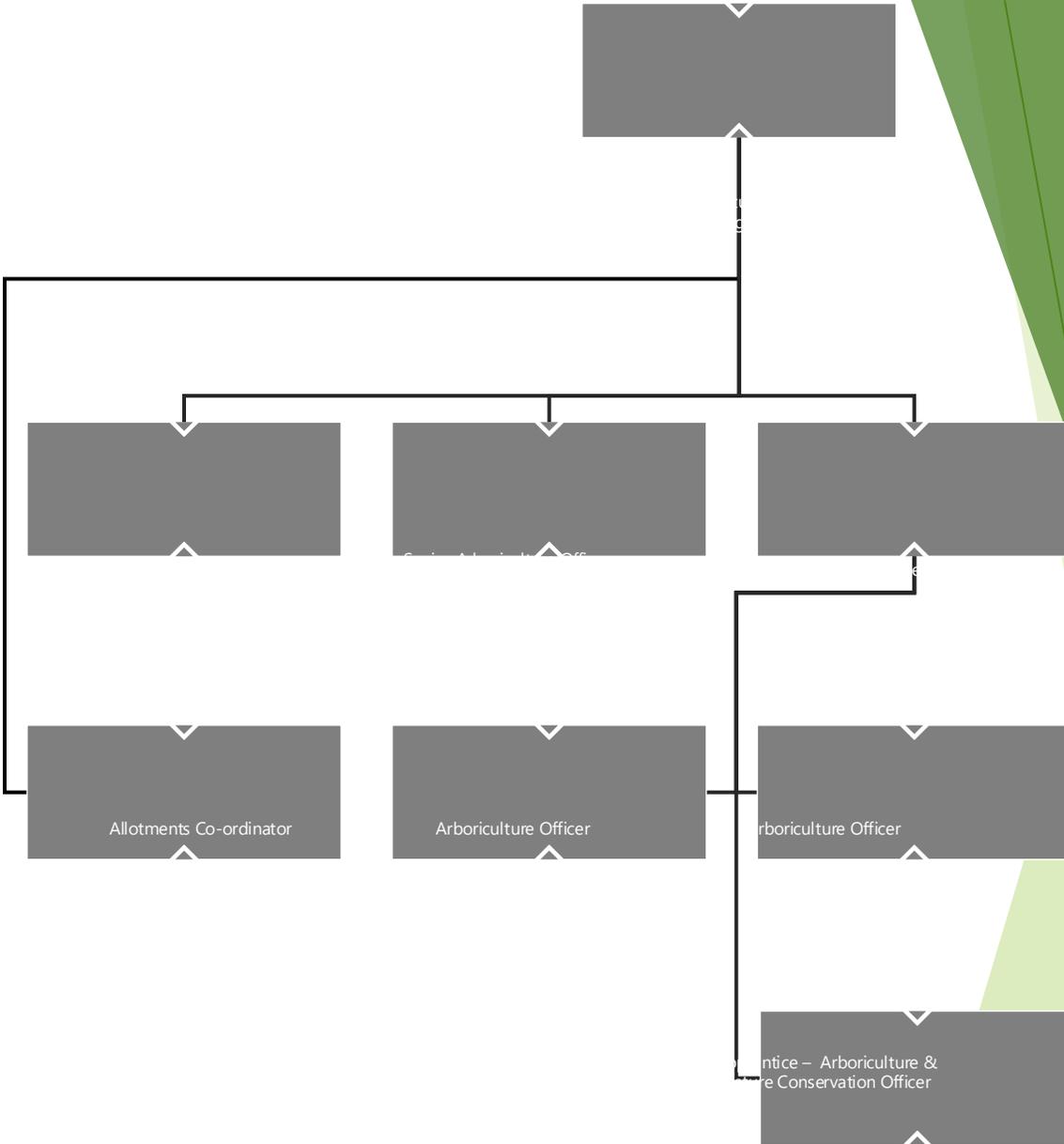
Parkland Walk - Lessons Learnt

- ▶ During the pandemic a new audience for Parkland Walk had developed due to lockdown and more working from home. As a result new groups emerged with which the Council had not historically engaged.
- ▶ Although we had taken technical advice as to the need for the tree removals, the Council could have done a better job explaining why the removals were and remain necessary.
- ▶ The organisation of the works into one package of tree removals, although carbon and financially efficient, added to the concerns raised by residents.
- ▶ Undertaking the tree removals at the same time as the most extensive winter maintenance vegetation programme was undertaken, added to the significant concern raised.
- ▶ People were informed that the winter works were part of the normal management of a local nature reserve.
- ▶ The Council needs to do a better job to share the rationale and the evidence behind its proposals.

Parkland Walk - What we will do different

- ▶ We will do more to ensure people have the information about what is “normal maintenance” in a nature reserve setting.
- ▶ We will undertake this maintenance more regularly so that people are used to seeing the walk maintained. This will be done in partnership with the Friends & TCV.
- ▶ We will offer opportunities for residents to be walked through the technical detail behind our maintenance decisions.
- ▶ We are currently preparing a new access audit, tree survey, topographical survey and ground penetrating radar survey of each bridge to bring together and discuss the detail of each tree and its interaction with the bridges.
- ▶ Rather than large scale works we will undertake tree removals at each bridge on an incremental basis. Where identified allow trees to die off rather than pre-emptively removing.
- ▶ When presenting any tree removals this will be done in the context of the positive work to expand the canopy cover in Haringey as a whole.

Staffing Resources



- ▶ As part of the work to develop the resources available to the council this year we have added a Senior Arboricultural Officer - Planning who will focus on trees in relation to planning applications and conservation areas.
- ▶ In January 2022 the team will be at full capacity.
- ▶ In recent weeks we have been able to fill all other posts including the two arboricultural officers roles which have been vacant for some considerable time.
- ▶ We have also added a new Tree and Nature Conservation Apprentice role to the structure. This role will be appointed in April 2022.

Removal of Street Trees

Trees will be removed where;

- ▶ They are dead or visibly in decline and have a limited life expectancy
- ▶ There are fungal brackets indicating possible root and trunk decay or other visible defects that impact the stability of a tree and present a hazard.
- ▶ Evidence has been provided to show they are a contributing factor in causing subsidence damage to an adjacent property and proactive tree management has had no effect
- ▶ They are causing significant damage to the public highway and engineering solutions are not feasible to allow retention.
- ▶ In the last 10 years, we have removed 1,914 street trees, averaging 191 per year.

Funding of New Trees

▶ Regular Funding

- ▶ Existing Capital Budget of £100k per annum (£70k Council Funding, £30k Match)
- ▶ New bid submitted to increase council capital by a further £75k per annum.
- ▶ Tree Sponsorship circa £30k per annum
- ▶ Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy £48k every 2-3 years.
- ▶ Highway Footway Programme - value dependent on programme.

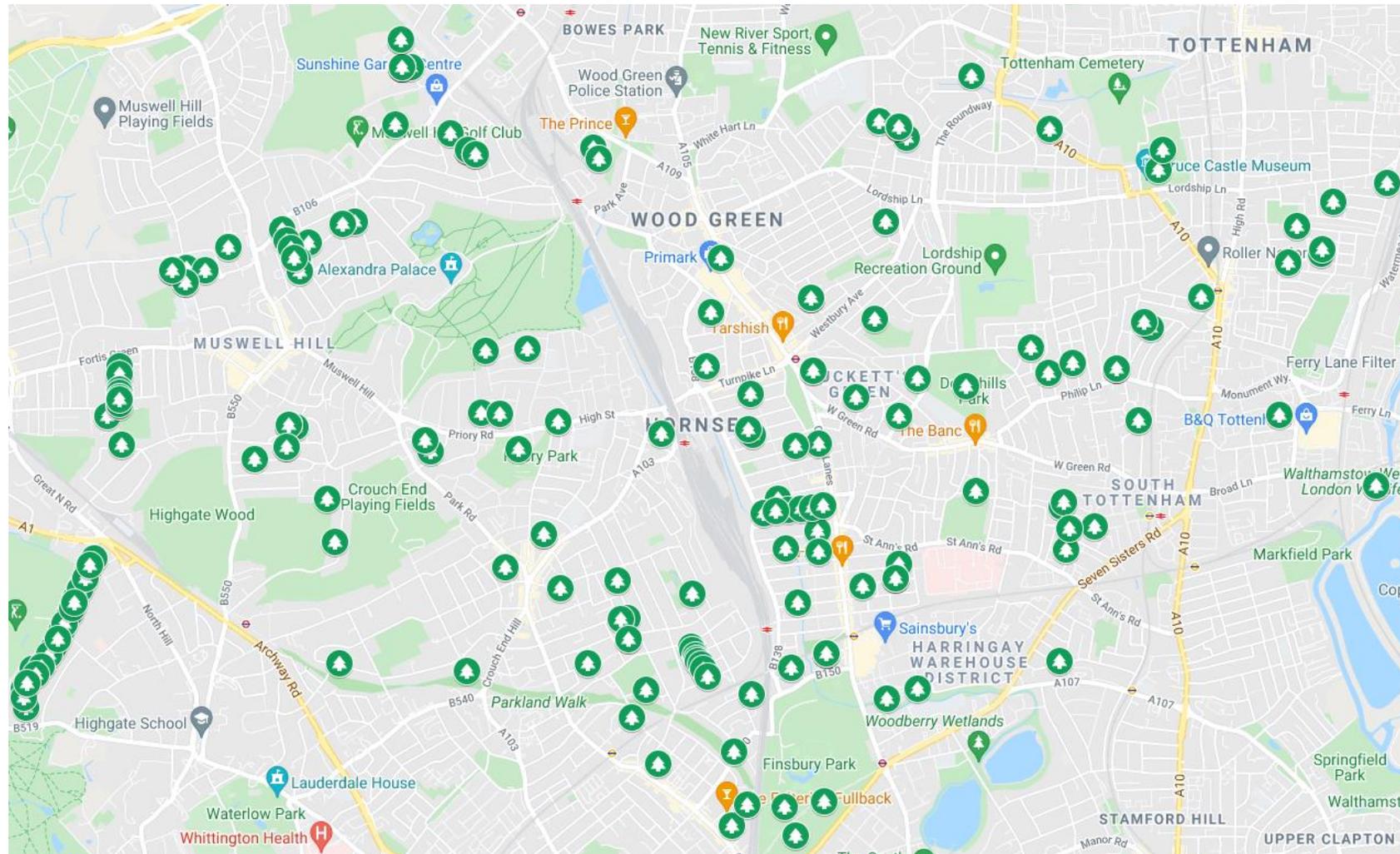
▶ One off Funding

- ▶ External Grants e.g. Urban Tree Challenge Fund 584 Trees £350k grant, Potential for a further 171 trees in round 2 of Urban Tree Challenge Fund, Mayors GLA funding
- ▶ Housing Development and Regeneration Schemes
- ▶ Corporate Sponsorship - Spurs / Sky sponsoring 60 trees this year.

▶ New Partnerships

- ▶ Potential new partnerships with groups such as Trees for Cities to generate funding for schemes in Haringey.

Borough map showing location of sponsored trees



Questions

