

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday 21 September 2020
Title: Trees Update
Contact Officer: Operations and Estates Officer – John Hickman

Background

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress of tree survey, tree works carried out and outstanding tree works.

Current Situation

Tree Survey

The annual tree survey is due in the next few months the Operations and estates Officer is in contact with Tree Work Environmental Practice regarding this year's survey.

There will be an associated cost to any year one tree works recommended by the tree survey this financial year.

Tree Works carried out so far this financial year.

T583 Cedar of Lebanon St Mary's Churchyard

All the relevant permissions are now in place to fell this tree, the Operations and Estates Officer is discussing with the tree surgeon when this can be carried out. WTC will put out a press release prior to the works taking place stating the reasons the tree is having to be felled etc. The tree surgeon has suggested that perhaps the council might wish to consider contracting a wood sculpture to perhaps carve some benches or sculpt some of the larger pieces. Locations would also need to be found for the benches/sculptures should council wish to do this. The Operations and estates Officer has contacted two tree sculptors to find out associated costs possibilities of work etc.

T217 Emma's Dyke

Urgent works to this tree were required following a recent storm when a large broken limb was hung up over a footpath. Cost £600 + VAT

T321 Mature Beech & T438 Cypress Tower Hill Cemetery

Both of these trees had to be felled to ground level following half of the Crown of the tree failing across a footpath rendering the remaining standing section of tree unstable. The

Cypress tree had to be felled due to main stem damage caused by the falling Beech tree crown. Cost £3,500 + VAT

T19, T15 & 72 Thorney Leys G114 & G117 Blenheim Drive

Cut back from houses 2m, remove branch over front door, remove branch from abrading house, raise crown remove excessive lateral branch spread over garden and footpath etc. Cost £750 + VAT

T512, T513, T514, T515, T517, T518, T520, T522, T523, T525, T526 & TT527 The Leys Recreation Ground.

Remove major deadwood over Footpath and Carriageway, remove suspect wood where required & remove epicormic growth from stems to 5m high over carriageway. Cost £2,000

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Obviously some of these larger trees pose a risk to the general public and therefore works have to be risk assessed and actioned accordingly. The council does not have extensive records and carries out the annual tree surveys to ensure the safety of the public and the health of the tree.

Financial implications

Current expenditure of budget line 402/4040 £6,850 for 2020/21 budget now standing at £12,150.

Recommendations

Member are invited to note the report.