



**Grounds and Environmental Services Committee**

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**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Title:** Tree planting schemes for public consultation

**Purpose of the Report:** To provide Members with the timescale and procedure for the tree planting public consultation in accordance with the principles of the Town Council’s Community Engagement Strategy.

**Contact Officer:** Ian Haynes – Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

<b>Corporate Aim/s</b>		To provide great public open spaces with varied opportunities for sport and leisure.
<b>Implications:</b>		
<b>Financial</b>		None
<b>Human Resources</b>		None
<b>Operational/Service delivery</b>		None
<b>Procedural/Legal</b>		None
<b>Risk/Health and Safety</b>		None

- 1. RECOMMENDATIONS**
  - 1.1** Should Members be minded, to support the proposal to:-
  - 1.2** To note the report.
  - 1.3** To endorse public consultation and thereafter the proposed timescale for public consultation in respects of tree planting schemes at Vandyke Road Playing Fields and Pages Field as set out in the attached Gantt chart.
- 2 BACKGROUND**
  - 2.1** In accordance with this committee’s workplan endorsed by Members in March 2020, the Town Council seeks to engage the public as per our Community

Engagement Strategy 2018 in respects of potential tree planting on two town council owned sites.

- 2.2 The tree planting public consultation sets out an approach to the way in which the Town Council wishes to engage with this subject matter. It is proposed that a 30-day consultation be started week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020.
- 2.3 The Town Council will seek views from as many residents and stakeholders as possible and we will also seek to work with key partners to proactively engage and promote a listening culture.

### **3. AIMS**

- 3.1 The aim of the tree planting public consultation is to explain the benefits of tree planting and the need to change the two named areas in question, Vandyke Road Playing Field and Pages Field away from the closely mown green areas of limited biodiversity which they currently are.
- 3.2 The public consultation will take a multi-channelled approach, to reach as many people, stakeholders and interested parties as possible. This approach will combine modern digital methods of engagement and traditional face to face events, held in the daytime, weekend and evenings at the council offices (whilst respecting social distancing requirements) – see attached Gantt chart.

### **4. OUTCOME AND DECISION MAKING**

- 4.1 It is anticipated that the public consultation findings will be returned to the December meeting of this committee with proposed recommendations.