

Arun District Council

REPORT TO:	Environment Committee 17 November 2022
SUBJECT:	Tree Planting Strategy update
LEAD OFFICER(S):	Oliver Handson – Environmental Services & Strategy Manager
LEAD MEMBER:	Cllr David Edwards
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:	
Corporate Vision – ‘Supporting our environment to support us’	
Overall aims within the Corporate Vision	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To consider climate change, sustainability, biodiversity and the environment in everything the council is responsible for• To Protect and enhance our natural environment.	
Achieved by - Ensuring that climate change and sustainability is at the heart of all council services	
DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:	
Delivery of the proposals as set out in the Tree Planting Strategy which is to plant on average 3,000 trees per year over the next 10 years	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY: There is an existing agreed revenue budget to support delivery of the Council’s Tree Planting Strategy	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update members of the Environment Committee on progress with the previously adopted Tree Planting Strategy 2021-2031.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 None, this is an update/information report only.

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3.1 The report provides an update for year one of the Council’s adopted Tree Planting Strategy and proposals for year 2.

3. DETAIL

4.1 Introduction

Arun's Tree Planting Strategy (TPS) 2021-2031 was approved by Members of the Environment Committee in November 2021. The report and links to the full strategy can be viewed by following the link in the background documents section of this report.

In line with principles set out in the TPS and the 10-year plan contained within, Arun's Tree Officer coordinates the year-on-year planting plan with input from the Greenspace Service. All procurement is through reputable and approved suppliers, with quality of stock at the forefront of our requirements.

In year 1 (Nov 2021 - Feb 2022) 75 Standards were planted across Arun's parks & open spaces. The year 1 planting list can be viewed in Appendix 1 of this report. Planting was carried out through the Council's in house Tree & Maintenance Team (TMT) to ensure adherence to best practice planting principles.

To celebrate the launch of the TPS, a community planting event took place at Bersted Park in early 2022. This included the planting of 1200 whips and some Oak standards. Details of this event can be viewed in the background documents section of this report

4.2 Challenges

The unprecedented long and very hot summer was not an ideal start for the first year of the TPS. However, this was largely mitigated through the TMT and Countryside & Volunteer Officer watering newly planted trees on a weekly basis, giving each tree at least 40 litres of water, and where required some trees were watered twice a week. Whilst this was time consuming, it was necessary to ensure the trees are given the best chance to successfully establish. Failures were avoided due to these efforts. There were a small number of oaks whose form was impacted by the harsh conditions. These trees will be removed and reused on our countryside sites and replaced during the planting this coming winter with new trees of better form.

Whilst a low level of vandalism did occur - mainly to a small number of cherry trees, overall, the vast majority of new trees have been left alone.

4.3 Year 2 planting (Nov 2022 – Feb 2023)

The year 2 list of standards to be planted is available to view in Appendix 2 of this report.

6200 whips are also due to be planted in year 2, across 10 different sites, including Bersted Brooks, Bersted Park, Langmeads Field and Larksfield Recreation Ground.

It is the intention to run a proactive volunteer watering campaign should conditions this year once again dictate a significant requirement for watering for both year 1 and year 2 planted trees. Details of newly planted trees which are plotted on GIS will be available for volunteers to support this initiative. This will supplement any watering carried out directly by Arun.

4.4 Funding support

All 6200 whips for year 2 and 9 standards have kindly been funded by Willmott Dixon, as part of their corporate sustainability strategy and corporate tree planting targets. This is a significant and much welcome contribution to the strategy.

4.5 Parish Trees scheme

In addition to the Council's own TPS, an offer was made to all Parish & Town Councils to support their own tree planting aspirations. As a result of this initiative Arun are donating a mix of native standards and whips to eight Town & Parish Councils this winter.

4.6 Queen Elizabeth II memorial trees/King's Charles III Coronation

Planting proposals to both commemorate the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III will be planned to dovetail with year 3 of the tree planting programme and will be communicated accordingly.

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 None

6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

6.1 N/A

7.COMMENTS BY THE INTERIM GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER

7.1 None

8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 All Council trees are managed as per the principles and risk assessment set out in the Council's adopted Tree Policy

9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

9.1 None

10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

10.1 None

11. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT

11.1 None

12. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT

12.1 None

13. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE

13.1 None

14. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE

14.1 Supports delivery of the Council's Vision and commitment to the environment and tackling climate change.

15. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

15.1 None

16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

16.1 None

17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

17.1 None

CONTACT OFFICER:

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

1. Report pack & Minutes of Environment Committee 17 November 2021 [Arun District Council](#)

2. Launch event communications [Arun's 10-year tree planting strategy launched | Latest news | Arun District Council](#)

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Year 1 planting plan (Standards)

Appendix 2 - Year 2 planting plan (Standards)