

# Report to: Assets and Operations Committee

**Report Ref:** A1921  
**Meeting Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
**Agenda Item:** 8  
**Prepared By:** Town Clerk



**Subject:** Tree Works

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

Tree surveys were undertaken at the cemetery, Sparrow Lane allotments, Wallwood and Higher Town Green in November/December. The works required and lowest quoted cost from tree surgeons are detailed below. Additional quotes are awaited, and the works may therefore fall below these costs.

## 2.0 WORKS REQUIRED

Priority Key: Urgent (0-3 months), High (3-6 months), Medium (6-12 months), Low (12+ months)

### 2.1 SPARROW LANE ALLOTMENTS

This is the first formal tree survey undertaken for Sparrow Lane allotments. There are four trees on the site, along the border of Sparrow Lane. All four trees are covered by TPOs.

Tree	Recommended Works	Priority	Cost
T1	Remove lower limb	High	50
T1 and T2	Cut ivy stems at base and remove to 2m	Medium	150
T3	Raise canopy over access area	High	50
	High Priority Works		100
	Medium Priority Works		150
	Total		250

There is sufficient budget within the Allotments cost centre to fund the works.

### 2.2 CEMETERY

This is the first tree survey undertaken for the cemetery and identifies a number of works that are required.

Tree	Recommended Works	Priority	Cost
T40	Tree in severe decline, remove.	Urgent	690
T5	Extensive decay evident throughout the main structure. Remove.	High	140



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T17	Large crack in co-dominant stem. Structurally unsound. Remove	High	690
	Raise canopy over entrance. Remove dead branches over		60
T1	pavement	High	
	Prune lower limb to lessen risk of failure and remove dead		90
T23	branches	High	
T29	Prune back limb extending over graves	High	90
T30	Prune back three branches overhanging graves.	High	100
T12	Leaning acutely over field with decay evident. Remove.	Medium	130
T16	Remove dead wood from pine sapling	Low	20
T18 / T19	Remove lower branches and epicormic shoots	Low	80
T26	Remove epicormic shoots at base of trunk	Low	30
T33 / T35	Remove epicormic growth	Low	50

Urgent Works	690
High Priority Works	1,170
Medium Priority Works	130
Low Priority Works	180
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,170</b>

There is no specific budget for tree works at the cemetery, but an external contractors' budget. The budget for the current financial year has been fully committed. Due the high priority of the works, it is recommended that the works urgent, high priority and medium priority works are approved (£1,990).

It is intended that the four trees being felled will be replaced later in the year.

### 2.3 HIGHER TOWN GREEN

The last survey for Higher Town Green was undertaken in 2016. The trees fall within the Legh Road Conservation Area.

Tree	Recommended Works	Priority	Cost
T1	Remove acutely leaning tree.	High	250
T2	Remove tree with excessive decay	High	300
T3	Remove dead tree	High	200
T6	Remove decaying limb	High	80
T7	Remove dead stem	High	80
T8	Remove dead tree	High	300
T9	Remove half uprooted tree	High	100
T10	Remove dead lower limbs	High	50
Group 1 (3 oaks)	Fell suspended tree, reduce trunk to 5m, fell dead tree	High	400

High Priority Works 1,760



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Total 1,760

Two trees were identified as requiring felling (T4 and T5) which fall just outside the council's land ownership. These have been raised with the landowner.

The committee has a budget of £250 in the current year and £250 in the next financial year for tree works.

## 2.4 WALLWOOD

The last survey of Wallwood was undertaken in 2018. Wallwood is covered by a TPO.

Tree	Recommended Works	Priority	Cost
T2	Prune back branches overhanging the road and pavement.	High	100
T6	Remove epicormic growth from base to approx. 4 metres.	Low	40
T12	Prune back branches extending over the road and pavement.	High	100
T13	Raise canopy and remove lower branches.	High	40
T14/T15	Prune back branches overhanging road/pavement, remove epicormic growth.	High	200
T16	Prune back branches on stem with fungal bracket	Medium	200
Group 1 ( 6 limes)	Remove epicormic growth from base to approx. 4 metres	Low	120
	High Priority Works		440
	Medium Priority Works		200
	Low Priority Works		160
	Total		800

The committee has a budget of £2,000 for tree works in Wallwood. It is recommended that the works High and Medium priority works are approved.

## 2.5 SUMMARY

The total value of tree works recommended to be commissioned is £4,640. There is a total current year budget of £2,500 to cover the works, leaving a current year shortfall of £2,140. Noting that £250 is covered by the Higher Town Green budget in the next financial year, there is an actual shortfall of £1,890.

The overspend arises from the works to Higher Town Green being significantly higher than anticipated (£1,760, last survey required only £500 of low priority works) and the unexpected volume of works at the cemetery. Depending on the performance of the cemetery budget, the shortfall may be covered part during the current financial year and part in the next. Tree works budgets will be factored in based on the triennial cycle of surveys.



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There is a £500 budget for Wallwood tree works in the 2020/21 budget; the trees adjacent to the highway will be surveyed again in late 2020. It is likely that this budget will be required for trees works arising from this survey. The inspection schedule for other sites is every three years.



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