



Neighbourhood Tree Improvement Programme

BRIEFING NOTE : -

SUBJECT: - Neighbourhood Tree Improvement Programme (NTIP)

SUMMARY

As part of the implementation of the Urban Forestry Strategy, the Parks Service is looking to create a more sustainable way to balance both the ongoing conflicts and benefits of Trees within the Urban Housing Areas.

NTIP has been developed in order to bring about:-

- Real improvements in terms of quality of life.
- Improved Citizen / Neighbourhood Satisfaction Levels.
- A realistic and deliverable methodology designed to significantly break the ongoing cycle of increased demand for Tree maintenance work.
- Deliver a transformational programme of Tree Rationalisation and appropriate replacement planting opportunities.

The Programme has been developed following a review of ongoing and repeated requests for Tree maintenance work and has been informed by consultations with Ward Councillors, Neighbourhood teams and the community.

BACKGROUND

For many years the City has struggled to cope with the high volume of requests for Tree pruning works. In total the service can receive up to 2000 requests for work per year. Whilst a large amount of these requests are for leaf fall and are therefore not acted upon, the next highest number of requests relate to the loss of light and also branches that are causing damage to buildings. These types of issues are particularly common within the high density 1960 / 70 Council housing areas e.g. parts of St Ann's, the Meadows and Clifton.

Like most new town developments, many of Nottingham's housing regeneration areas dating back to this period were all very heavily planted in order to create a sense of maturity and a sense of place for the new communities.

In many of these areas the Trees are now mature and have a mixture of both inappropriate species and close proximity Trees, which are close to each other or nearby properties. As a result these Trees often create problems for local residents and can negatively affect the quality of life for our citizens.

Having inspected the Trees within many of the estates, it is clear that there has been no real attempt in the past to thin out the Trees. Therefore, today we are faced with a major challenge and a need to implement a significant and more strategic Tree Rationalisation and Improvement Programme.

PROPOSAL

- To carry out detailed consultation in all 20 wards in the City with all ward Councillors, Neighbourhood Development officers and housing Patch Managers in order to identify key priority areas and or individual Trees or nuisance Trees Stumps to be removed.

- Deliver a two year programme of felling inappropriately placed Trees and replacement Tree planting.
- Carry out local community planting days with suitable Trees placed in the most appropriate locations.

PROGRAMME AIMS

- To carry out consultation with Ward Cllrs and the community to identify a priority list of inappropriately planted species (wrong tree, wrong place and other ongoing nuisance Trees);
- To confirm a priority list of Trees that can be felled and removed;
- To identify opportunities to replant new Trees in more sustainable locations within the Housing Areas. This would work on the basis that each Tree removed is replaced by ideally 2 new Trees in the local area;

PRIORITY TREE WORKS SELECTION CRITERIA

Trees Removals need to be identified and assessed on a priority basis.

Selection of the final programme of work will be drawn from:-

- Ward Cllrs priority lists & Tree survey inspection records.
- Tree Location e.g. Trees likely to cause damage / financial claims against the Council
- Housing areas Trees with high volume citizen complaints
- Highway Tree Stump removal and replanting will be considered.
- General requests for pruning will not be considered as part of the programme

DELIVERY PROPOSAL

- The project will establish a dedicated 2 year part time fixed term in house programme manager to concentrate on both the community consultation and programme management.
- The **NTIP** programme works will be carried out both by internal tree teams specialist contractors
- Final phase will be to organise and carry out a programme of community planting events.

FUNDING

- Funding has been secured form the Area Capital Fund, NCH and City Council funds to help finance the implementation of the programme.

Project Management

In order to ensure that the project runs smoothly and stay on programme it is proposed that a part time project manager post is established with the parks and open space service. This post will be recruited from within the existing parks team and will last for 2 years.

BUILDING ON PREVIOUS SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

This proposal builds on previous successful trial projects that have been implemented in recent years or are currently in progress for example:-

The Lenton Grid Tree Works Programme

The programme aimed to remove and heavily prune a significant number of trees with the Lenton Grid Area. The works were funded directly by a large contribution from Area Capital Allocations.

This project included a wide range of tree removals and heavy framework pruning as seen below.

BEFORE



AFTER



THE BENEFITS OF THE WORKS INCLUDED

- The total removal on long standing service requests and complaints.
- Improved light and removal / reduction of leaf and honeydew fall
- Removal of some Trees also included improvements / repairs to the footpaths making the area safer for pedestrians.
- To create a more sustainable mixed age Tree stock within the inner City housing areas;
- Reduced risk of potential for structural damage to properties and mitigate the risk of insurance claims.

OTHER PROJECTS THAT HAVE RECENTLY BEEN DELIVERED INCLUDE:-

- Major transformation of the Tree stock within the St Ann's Ward.
- Priority Tree Works within the Bulwell Forest Ward.
- Significant improvements to Tree's along Radford Boulevard.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

In considering the priorities for the NTIP Councillors may also like to consider a more bespoke option (like the projects mentioned above) that is specifically designed to meet the Tree issues in their Wards. Tree Service will be more than happy to meet with Councillors in order to tailor the programme and discuss funding options.

Appendix 1				
NTRIP FUNDING 2015/16 - 2016/17				
Area		Area capital	NCH	NCC Reserve
1	Bulwell	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
	Bulwell Forest	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
2	Basford	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
	Bestwood	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
West	Leen Valley	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
	Asply	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
	Bilborough	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
4	Arboretum, Radford & Park	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
	Dunkirk & Lenton	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
5	Sherwood	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
	Berridge	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
6	Mapperley	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
	St Ann's	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
	Dales	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
7	Wollaton West	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
	Wollaton East & Lenton Abbey	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
8	Bridge	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
	Clifton North	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
	Clifton South	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
Project Management				£30,000
	Totals	£ 95,000	£ 95,000	£125,000
	Total Funding	£ 315,000		