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Briefing Note

South Avenue Recreation Grounds

Locally Grown Tree Planting 2023

Introduction

In 2022 a local resident of Western Road approach the Parish Council to enquiry as to whether we would like 5 x Oak and 5 x Horse Chestnut saplings that he had grown from acorns and Conkers, of which he planted when his twin sons were born.

5 x Oak saplings were planted in Buck willy (Hurst Meadow) in Spring 2023, the remaining Horse chestnut saplings have been held by the resident while preparations were made for them to be planted in South Avenue Recreation grounds. The trees range in size between 1.5m and 2m presently and the proposal below, will protect them and give them a fight chance to establish in their new locations.

Proposal

It is proposed to Plant 5 x Horse chestnut saplings in South Avenue Recreation Grounds, they will be planted to complete the Avenue of trees through the centre of the site, 1 x planted in the Play Area to replace the existing Horse chestnut, which following a recent Sonic tomography Survey, will over the next 2 years will need to be felled. The remaining Saplings are to be planted around the boundary of the site.

The Committee is also asked to consider planting the remaining saplings in a new row of trees along the Eastern boundary, set back from South Avenue itself, the existing Lime trees along the boundary although presently healthy, will deteriorate over time and will need replacing. By planting these trees now, we can ensure that when the limes are removed there will be health replacements set back from the road to reduce the risk of damage to parked cars and properties.

Funding

To give the saplings, the best chance to survive, the following is recommended:

- 5 x Metal tree cages (same as used in South Avenue last month), these require 2 weeks ordering,
- Cable ties for tree cages
- 5 x professional Watering Pipes
- 3 x bags of Melcourt Tree planting compost
- 2 x bags of Melcourt mini pine bark
- 5 x 75mm x 1.8m Tree Stakes
- 5 x Tree Ties

The Total Cost for The Materials Would Be **£1,579.49 ex. VAT**. The Saplings will be planted by The Maintenance Officer and Estates & Facilities Manager, to remove labour costs.

After discussion with Mid Sussex District Council there is a possibility that S106 funding may be usable for this project and an application has been submitted.

Recommendation

It is our recommendation to Plant the 5 x Horse Chestnut Saplings into South Avenue Recreation Grounds, Completing the Avenue of Trees through the centre of the site, planting a future replacement Sapling in the Play Area and to plant the remaining saplings along the Eastern Boundary, set back from the road. Using S106 funding (if possible), to fund the Tree Guards, stakes, mulch, and watering snorkels. If S106 funding is unavailable, to budget for this project into next year.

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee is asked to AGREE to proceed with the Planting of these locally grown Horse Chestnut saplings in South Avenue Recreation Grounds using S106 funding if available, and to funding if not available in next years budget. The Committee is also asked to AGREE to plant a new avenue of saplings along the Eastern Boundary. Which will be set back from the road and will replace the lime trees once they become unsafe.

