



Church Stretton

Town Council

Report for Public Realm to be held on Tuesday 6th September 2022

Agenda Item: 12

Report produced by	Gillian Bailey
Summary	This report details tree work required as ongoing maintenance and to deal with the fallen tree in Cunnery Road Cemetery.
Recommendation	Councillors are requested to consider the report and recommendations.
Risk Assessment	The required works are for maintenance, and are not high risk.
Purpose / Benefits	Ensure tree maintenance is up to date.
Costs Identified	Quotations are in the region of £3,000 - £4,000

Introduction

In December last year a tree from a neighbouring property fell into Cunnery Road Cemetery. One large branch is hung up in a tree and needs climbing to remove. There is a significant amount of timber to remove.

Since May I have been seeking quotations for this work, and, in an effort to reduce costs, deal with some of the tree maintenance detailed in the tree survey undertaken in 2021.

Since the original requests for quotations further tree works have been identified. To avoid further delay, I would recommend that these works are awarded to the successful contractor for the tender as written in May.

Cunnery Road Cemetery

- Holly: cut and kill ivy, crown reduce 25%, crown clean dead wood.
- Holly: Fell
- Elm: Fell
- Tidy and trim to 30% 3 x holly bushes
- Remove fallen tree and process all waste.

Contractors have been requested to price for the removal and processing of waste from the fallen tree, which is from the neighbouring property. I have met with the householder, who has

talked to his insurance company who have advised no liability. I have been advised by our insurance company that there is no cover for clearing the waste.

I have since received further advice that the householder is responsible for removing his property from Council land. It has been suggested that the council give 28 days notice requiring removal of the fallen limbs or the Council will undertake this work and seek reimbursement. Should the Council wish to pursue this it may necessitate the involvement of small claims Court.

Planning permission 22/02841/TCA refers

War Memorial

- Remove 1 Ash, road side

Further Work now Required

- Remove 2 further Ash, road side
- Remove 1 Ash bank side (difficult access)
- Remove dead trees to either side of shelter (RHS on bank)
- Remove overhanging dead branch above phone line
- Remove various self seeded Ash on the Burway.

In October 2021 a number of trees were felled, planning application 20/00545/TPO required that 10 replacement trees were planted. This has not taken place.

A member of the outdoor team and I have met with two of our tree wardens and agreed potential locations for:

- 1 Rowan and 2 Hawthorns on LHS of shelter
- 1 Hornbeam where Sitka trees were removed last year
- 2 Hawthorns, 2 Rowans and a Field Maple adjacent to Longhills Road
- 2 Scots Pine along path to rear of memorial

Due to the nature of the ground some top soil will need to be brought onto site and a mechanical digger will be needed to dig in some of the areas.

I would recommend a budget of £1,000 to undertake this work.

Planning permission 22/03843/TPO refers.

Station Patch

- Ash, kill ivy, crown clean and dead wood
- Blackthorn, prune split stem
- Ash, prune back and crown clean dead wood.

Greenhills Cemetery

- Silver Birch, crown clean dead wood
- Hawthorn, prune branch and crown clean dead wood
- Ash (group of 4) Crown clean dead wood

Further work now required.

- Cherry Tree, top of cemetery steps to RHS – remove as dead

Quotations

The following quotations have been received.

Contractor	1	2	3
Tree works	£3,690	£2,680	£2,420
Removal of fallen limbs	£ 330	£ 850	£ 850

Funding

Fund from: £1,490 EMR for tree maintenance balance £0
£1,500 EMR Cunnery Road balance of £1,000
£1,000 EMR Station Patch balance of £1,000

Planting of new trees budget **£1,000** request virement from underspent budgets.

Ongoing Management of Tree works

Without a member of staff with the necessary experience and expertise in this field; managing this process, meeting with contractors, chasing quotes and submitting planning applications has been very time consuming, and unsatisfactory for the contractor.

The Public Realm Committee is asked to consider tendering for a contractor to manage ongoing inspections, maintenance and emergency tree works on behalf of the council.

Benefits include:

- Experience and expertise unavailable within existing team
- Fixed contract price enables better budgeting
- The council will be able to respond quickly to emergency situations without recourse to a number of quotations.
- The Council can feel confident that trees are being professionally managed.

Expenditure on tree works

2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
£6,500*	£10,295	£860	£730

(* costs are for work included in this report and removal of willow trees at Coppice Leasowes)

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- Approve tree works as detailed and agree a preferred contractor.
- Consider if the Council wishes to pursue the landowner for costs associated with removal of fallen limbs in Cunnery Road Cemetery.
- Recommend to Full Council that £1,000 be vired from unspent budgets for tree planting
- Consider the proposal for ongoing management of tree works and agree action.