



Executive
10th April 2006

**Report from the Director of
Environment and Culture**

For Information

Ward Affected:
Queens Park

Petition – Trees in Liddell Gardens, NW10

1.0 Summary

1.1 The report provides background information for a petition received in respect of trees in Liddell Gardens, which contained signatures asking for trees to be planted in Liddell Gardens, NW10.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Executive notes the information provided in this report.
- 2.2 That the Executive considers funding additional trees in future budget growth rounds.
- 2.3 That the Executive consider a future tree sponsorship scheme.

3.0 Details and Background Information

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to provide background information for a petition received in respect of trees in Liddell Gardens, which contained signatures asking for trees to be planted in Liddell Gardens, NW10.
- 3.2 The petition has been validated by Democratic Services as containing over 50 signatures and in accordance with Standing Orders has been submitted to the Executive.
- 3.3 Liddell Gardens, NW10 is situated within the Queens Park Ward. The trees consist of species that are mainly ornamental, such as whitebeam (sorbus), cherry (prunus), apple (malus), lime (odd tilia), and sycamore (acer).

- 3.4 Over a number of years, Liddell Gardens has seen its' tree stock reduced due to age and other factors. The trees in Liddell Gardens have a typical life expectancy of around 15 years, except for the lime and sycamore trees whose life expectancy is between 50 & 70 years. A further factor in the reduced tree population is the rate of removal over a period of years to facilitate vehicular crossings.
- 3.5 Brent Insurance Management has advised that there is no history of insurance claims linked to subsidence.
- 3.6 At present, there are fewer than 10 trees in the road, with a potential to plant an additional 20 trees, subject to survey.
- 3.7 Liddell Gardens is not likely to be identified as a location for the Borough's Phased Removal and Replacement Programme due to the fact that there is no history of subsidence insurance claims.
- 3.8 Similarly, whilst some financial provision exists for new tree planting, Liddell Gardens is just one of a number of potential locations with similar or greater demand for new trees.
- 3.9 As an indication, planting 20 new street trees in Liddell Gardens would cost in the order of £5,000 inclusive of footway reinstatements.
- 3.10 Whilst the Borough does not have an agreed Tree Sponsorship scheme, the potential for this will be considered as part of a review of the Street Tree Management Policy approved by the Executive at its meeting on 13th October, 2003. Sponsors would pay for the purchase of trees and planting costs. The Council would normally fund any replacement planting that was subsequently necessary.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There is currently no budget available for the planting of trees in Liddell Gardens.

5.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 5.1 There are no staffing or accommodation issues arising from this report.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal issues arising from this report

7.0 Diversity Implications

- 7.1 Officers have screened the proposed contract specification detail, and consider that there are no specific diversity implications.

Contact Officers

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