



Notes

Carbon Neutral Working Group

Date:	Wednesday, 13 July 2022
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes
Present:	<u>Councillors</u> Tommy Threlfall (Chairman), Noreen Griffiths, Karen Henshaw and Viv Willder. <u>Officers</u> Tracy Manning (Deputy Chief Executive) Mark Evans (Head of Planning) Lisa Foden (Parks & Costal Services Manager) Andrew Rayner (Tree & Arboriculture Officer)
Note Taker:	Lyndsey Lacey-Simone

1. Introductions and apologies

The Chairman, Councillor Tommy Threlfall welcomed all those in attendance to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillor Stan Trudgill.

2. Update on the Capital Tree Planting Programme and Budgetary Position/ Planting Activity

Mark Evans (Head of Planning) was invited by the Chairman to introduce an update on the capital tree planting programme and budgetary position. In doing so, he stated that a slippage of £19,000 from the original ad-hoc budget of £25, 000 had been agreed at Budget Council in March 2022. This was to allow further tree planting to be carried out during the 2022/23 planting season.

Mr Evans went on to say that at the previous meeting of the Working Group, a discussion took place about utilising some of the budget to undertake a tree survey as a base line study for future planting which would also tie in with other carbon neutral baseline assessments.

Andrew Raynor (Tree & Arboriculture Officer) was then invited to expand on the details of the proposed tree survey. He explained that there were various types of surveys that could be undertaken ranging from high level to basic surveys and the costs/ square metres involved were reflective of this.

He went on to say that as an alternative, the Council could consider using a company called 'National Tree Mapping Data' which use 'Blue Sky'. He explained that the company apply a broad-brush approach to tree cover and of relevance, the Forestry Commission also use 'Map Data' to get their country wide tree information. Members were advised that to undertake a survey for the whole of Fylde on a ward-by-ward basis would cost in the region of

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£1,775. Mr Raynor stated that the intention would be to utilise the remaining funding for other tree projects and if there was a desire to identify areas for tree planting locations, such work could be undertaken by the Parks Team.

Clarification was sought at the meeting about links to the survey work carried out by Forestry Commission and the proposed survey. Mr Raynor addressed this point.

Members also commented on the following areas: the ability to put trees in the ground at the earliest opportunity; Tree Planting week and the associated publicity; issues with trees being planted incorrectly; the importance of LCC input to the planting programme; community events/Lytham Hall project; Welcome Back Fund; stakeholder projects and planting trees in schools/colleges and getting children/scouts involved in the planting project. In addition, matters associated with planting in the town & parish areas and the need to have a strategic approach to planting that works in tangent with identifying green spaces in the borough was raised. Each point was addressed by the relevant officer.

It was suggested that whilst the Council was waiting for the tree survey work to be undertaken, the Parks Team could look at what could be reasonably be achieved in terms of tree planting in its green spaces assets over what is currently being delivered (including requests for further partnership tree planting activity from St Annes Town Council, Elswick Parish Council, and the Fairhaven Team) In consideration of this point, it was acknowledged that tree planting season was the period from November to the end of February.

Lisa Foden stated that the proposed survey work would be fundamental to tree planning in both the medium and long-term. She also stressed the importance attached to planting the right tree in the right place with the involvement of the Ranger Service.

Further to above, Lisa Foden highlighted that tree planting was already occurring across the green spaces with the Ranger Service but not with the specific budget. She added that the suggested proposal in identifying additional sites could be looked out in tangent with both Teams and that any work undertaken with this funding would complement the current works programme.

Mark Evans referred to the regional and national initiatives aimed at increasing tree cover throughout the country and the community planting schemes allowing 15 trees to be planted in each of 15 parishes.

Following a full discussion, it was AGREED:

1. To commit £1,775 of the £19,000 budget to fund the tree planting survey work as outlined at the meeting.
2. To request Lisa Foden in partnership with Andrew Raynor to identify/cost up a list of tree planting sites (divided between the Council's own green spaces assets & other assets) with a view to consulting with the Chairman and Vice- Chairman of Environment, Health & Housing Committee and reporting back on the outcome to the next meeting of the Working Group.
3. To review the balance of the budget at the next appropriate meeting of the Working Group.
4. To instigate comms around planned tree planting activity to coincide with Tree Planting week.
5. To present the updated Tree & Landscape Strategy to the next meeting of the Working Group.

3. SWOT Analysis - Climate Change

Tracy Manning (Deputy Chief Executive) introduced this information item for discussion and comment. A copy of the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis for climate change (completed by the Senior Management Team and the Leadership Board) was circulated with the agenda.

Tracy Manning stated that the analysis is linked to the carbon neutral work and whilst it is a useful piece of work, suggested it would be helpful to take a step back to consider the overall direction of travel corporately with respect

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to the carbon neutral/climate change agenda. Mrs Manning went on to say that this is something that the newly appointed Head of Environmental Health & Housing was giving some consideration to in the first instance.

Clarification was sought on use of pesticides, resources for the Climate Change agenda and the status of the Climate Emergency Declaration. Lisa Foden and Tracy Manning addressed these points as appropriate.

4. Any Other Business

The Chairman, Councillor Threlfall referred to a recent visit that he had undertaken to BAE Systems. He explained that an offer had been made by Paul Earnshaw for representatives of BAE Systems to attend a future meeting of the Working Group to discuss best practice /share ideas on the Carbon Neutral agenda.

It was AGREED - That this be progressed with a view to representatives of BAE Systems attending the next meeting of the Working Group.

5. Date and Time of Next Meeting

That the next meeting of the group be held in September. Date to be agreed.
