

To Hythe Town Council
Date 12 November 2020
Status **Non Exempt**
Responsible officer Responsible Financial Officer

Subject **REQUEST FOR TREE WORKS AT LONGBRIDGE
ALLOTMENT SITE REPORT F&GP/23/20**

SUMMARY: This report sets out the options for consideration for tree works along the boundary of Longbridge allotments and asks the committee to review in accordance with good practice.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee is asked to agree the recommendations set out below because:-

- a) The Council is committed to control and manage its financial affairs in accordance with The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) guidelines.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note the report F&GP/23/20
2. To identify a contractor to complete the works.
3. To cost the agreed expenditure to Budget code 5003 Tree audit and works

INTRODUCTION

This tree maintenance work has been requested by the tenants of the Longbridge site as the trees have grown enormously over the years and are now affecting the tenants ability to grow produce due to the shading and the dropping of debris. The tenants have agreed that if the trees can be reduced to a manageable height they will maintain them in future.

The trees concerned are mainly sycamores with about four mature ash trees among them. They extend the full length of the allotment site beside the railway line. The ash trees are all affected by dieback and will need some radical surgery sooner or later.

The District Arboricultural Officer has made a site visit and does not have any objection to cutting the trees back to fence height.

The Plans and works Clerk has requested three quotations to reduce the trees on the border of the Longbridge allotment site which backs on to the light railway line to

fence height and chip the arisings which can be left for the allotment tenants to use. Any arisings which cannot be chipped should will be removed from site
The trees are behind plots 1, 2, 3B, 4B, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and can be seen clearly in the photographs below.



Two of the three quotations requested for the reducing of trees along the boundary of the Longbridge allotments are listed below;

Company A;

- Reduction of trees at Longbridge Allotments
 - Reduce all trees down to fence height, approximately 1.8m.
 - Chip all waste and leave on site.
 - Remove any waste that cannot be chipped.
- **Total £1,950**

Company B

- Reduction of trees at Longbridge Allotments
 - Reduce all trees down to fence height
 - Remove all arisings.
- **Total £1,600 plus vat**

Company C

- Reduction of trees at Longbridge Allotments
 - Reduce all trees down to fence height
 - Chip all waste and leave on site.
 - Remove all arisings.
- **Total £2,955 plus vat**

SUMMARY

All three quotes have been submitted by the Councils listed contractors and are based on the same works to site.

RISK MANAGEMENT

A summary of the perceived risk follows;

| Perceived Risk | Seriousness | Likelihood | Preventative Action |
|--|-------------|------------|--|
| The Council does not reduce the height of the trees and allotment holders cannot grow produce. | High | Low | The Council authorises the Town Clerk/RFO to order the tree works. |

CONTACT OFFICER

If you have any queries about this report please contact The Responsible Financial Officer of the Council.

Tel: 01303 266152 or email RFO@hythe-tc.gov.uk prior to the meeting.