

Environmental Services

Regulatory & Licensing, Waste & Recycling Strategy, Open Spaces Development, Street Scene & Fleet

Borough of Poole, 1 New Fields Business Park,

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Dear Poole Park Users,

There have been quite a few threads on the Facebook [page](#) 'Poole Park Users Group' recently about the proposed improvements which will be implemented if the Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) is secured. I have addressed the main points as follows (web-links are below) These are all proposals only at this stage, pending the HLF decision in July.

Trees:

A 50 year tree strategy has been written as a 1st issue document, this will be updated and progressed through the Delivery Phase.

A range of tree-related documents were produced for the planning application, principally an Arboriculture Impact Assessment, with accompanying plans for tree removal, mitigation of development works and tree planting plans.

In Summary:

- 295 trees were individually surveyed (up to Feb 2017)
- There are currently approx. 24 trees remaining in the avenue along the carriage drive from the original early 1900's planting.
- A total of 75 trees have been proposed for removal. The reasons for this are as follows:
- 15 individually assessed trees were identified as being unsuitable for retention;
- 44 trees and one group were recommended to be removed in the interest of sensible and reasonable arboricultural management.
- 15 trees are proposed to be removed to allow the strategic replanting of the avenue
- 1 tree, a mature Hawthorn suffering low vigour through long term suppression by larger specimens near the War Memorial entrance gates, will be lost due to the direct implementation of the development.
- Selective clearing of the vegetation on the islands of the Small Freshwater Lakes will result in the removal of approximately 5 trees and clearing along the bank of the Large Freshwater lakes will result in the removal of approximately 10 trees, some of which are dead.

Only 16 trees are to be removed due to the proposed hard landscape improvements and strategic replanting of the tree avenue. The additional 49 trees identified for removal would need this work done immediately or in the short term whether or not the HLF project goes ahead due to their unsuitability for retention in a public open space setting. From an arboricultural and amenity aspect it is considered that the most significant and visually prominent surveyed trees on site have been retained.



The proposed tree planting allows for the planting of 80 trees resulting in a net increase as a result of the HLF project. This is considered adequate and reasonable mitigation measure to address loss of amenity. Trees to be replanted will not be 'whips' or saplings, they will be semi-mature trees, with a circumference at 1m height of a minimum of 18cm, planted and with a maintenance schedule to give them the best possible growing conditions. There are examples in the tree Strategy of this type of tree and will be similar to the larger size trees planted in Seldown Park (outside the Dolphin swimming pool) a few years ago.

It is considered that the resultant loss of amenity associated with the works, detailed above, will have a relatively low, short term impact on the treed character of the Park. Although there will be a temporary loss of mature trees, these trees are already in decline and their removal is anticipated to be within the next 10-20years. The proposed strategic replanting will ensure that a high quality tree stock remains in the Park for the long term future

The heritage and history of Horse Chestnuts in the park is well understood and appreciated. They form an integral part of many people's memories and love for Poole Park and we have no intention of removing them all, but we do have a duty to ensure the fabric of the park is maintained for the future and this means planting a wider variety of species to avoid wholesale loss due to disease, pests and climate change. This approach is consistent with advice received from the Forestry Commission's health and biosecurity department.

The Tree Strategy can be found on [this page](#), along with other strategic documents
The Planning-related tree documents can all be found on the planning [website](#), see [here](#) for the specific document, or search using case ref. APP/17/00378/F,

Funding for the road. Approximately £1m of the total project fund of £3.5m is for improvements to the entrances, roads, paths, car parks, tree removal and replanting, crossing points, adjacent areas of surfacing and new infrastructure such as bollards, railings and so on. You can still view the consultation plans that form the basis of the submission and planning application [here](#).

Freshwater Lake fish: The research we have had undertaken by Bournemouth University outlined a management approach which involves removing a significant number of carp from the large freshwater lake. In previous years when oxygen levels in the water drop we have had fish die and this is exasperated by a high density of carp. Borough of Poole has been working with a local angling club to safely and humanely re-home the carp to other lakes in the area.

The benefit for the lake should be a wider diversity of fish species, greater numbers of invertebrates and a healthier water body.

Fishing by members of the public is not allowed.

I hope this information is useful.

Yours sincerely

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