

Meeting	Parks and Open Spaces Committee
Date	12 th September 2023
Report Title	Tiny Forests
Agenda Reference	11
Author	Georgina Morgan-Denn Chief Officer/Clerk & RFO David Hunt, Head of Parks & Open Spaces

Recommendation

To review the public comments following the Tiny Forest consultation/ letter drop and consider next steps.

Background

As reported to Community Development Committee in August (CD 049) a joint Tiny Forests bid has been submitted in conjunction with Central North, Central South and West Swindon Parish Councils. The original bid included four Haydon Wick proposed sites at Heaton Close, Grace Walk, Luna Close and Voyager Drive have been included. After scrutiny by the funding body these four were reduced to two sites: Grace Walk and Voyager Drive. Last week we received confirmation that the joint bid has been successful.

Both sites were letter dropped in August asking nearby residents for their comments on the proposals. The letters contained images showing the planned locations of the planting. There has been no feedback from residents of Grace Walk and two comments from residents of Voyager Drive, see separate files.

This week we have been informed that the funding body has commissioned utility mapping on the two sites and once these are completed there will be a further discussion.

Why do we need community woodlands?

Haydon Wick Parish Council lies to the North of Swindon's core urban area, with the majority of its development having been built after the mid 1990s. The older sections of the Parish include the Haydon Wick High Street, which holds properties built in the last 150 years. The Parish Council recognises the benefits of increasing tree cover, particularly in its areas of high density housing.

Community woodlands bring the benefits of a forest right into our urban spaces. This amazing phenomenon reconnects people with nature, enhances wellbeing, helps mitigate the impact of climate change and provides nature-rich habitat patches to support urban wildlife.

How we plan to deliver the project

- SBC will assist with surveys for utility companies
- Head of Parks and Open Spaces Manager will carry out on site surveys to ascertain the minimum space requirements can be met.
- Trees will be planted into ground prepared by the Parks and Open Spaces Team.
- Tree planting, staking and protection will be carried out with volunteers from the community, Parish Council staff and Councillors. We will work with local schools and community groups to ensure buy-in from residents from the outset.



- The Tiny Forest sites will be fenced, and each tree protected with tree guards, using environmentally friendly methods wherever possible.
- The Community Development Team will assist with project management, in conjunction with the Head of Parks and Open Spaces.

Additional information

See separate documents supplied by Earthwatch covering the benefits, site criteria and creating a forest.