

Meeting	Amenities & Leisure Committee
Date	9 th February 2021
Report Title	COVID-19 Memorial
Agenda Reference	12
Author	David Hunt, Head of POST, Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk and Councillor V Manro

Officer's Recommendation

1. To purchase the saplings, tree supports, guards and additional materials for a cost of £822.20 using existing budget [4309/307].
2. To plant five Great White Cherry Blossom Trees in a semi-circle at the proposed location next to Orchid Vale Care home off Torun Way/ Guernsey Lane before the end of March 2021, allowing an extra season for them to grow.
3. To note that further development such as raised beds, benches and paths could be installed during Winter Projects in 2021.
4. To agree to purchase and store materials within this financial year for 'phase 2' which will be completed during Winter Projects 2021 to a total value of £1950.00, purchasing as much as we can using existing budgets within this financial year [4301/307].

Background

In light of the current national emergency and the COVID-19 deaths sadly exceeding 100,000 and still rising, many councils are looking at ways to provide a memorial garden in memory of those that have sadly lost their lives. Councillor V Manro mentioned this proposal at the Amenities & Leisure Committee meeting in January and the suggestion was well supported, so it was agreed to bring back a full proposal to Committee to consider.

It was suggested by the Head of POST that for the trees to flourish, it would be beneficial to plant them before the end of March 2021, to give an additional season of growing.

Location

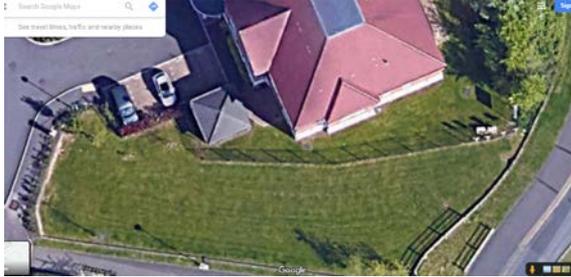
The identified area for this project is off Torun Way / Guernsey Lane. This is close to the care home, which specialises in dementia care, so this could also fit our dementia friendly bench/meeting area. If also used as the dementia friendly area some forget me not ornamental stakes could also be secured near to the trees within the area.

The ground highlighted is maintained by our internal Grass Team, the mowers can get into this area and so it will be well maintained. The condition of the grass is not great as for some time there was a container stored there, and the grass has never recovered properly.

Councillors to suggest other areas to consider or additional areas to enhance in other areas of the Parish that may be able to be revisited during Phase 2 of the project in the winter months.



This is a well-used walking route, and close enough to the care home that any potential ASB would be reported quickly by care home staff/warden.



Costs

- 5 x Great White Cherry Blossom Trees
- 10 x Tree stakes
- 5 x Half round rails
- 5 x Tree tying kits
- 5 x 60L Compost
- 5 x Root Irrigation Kit

Total: £822.20 + VAT

There will also be an additional 22.5 hour labour costs for 3 operatives and the use of the Council vehicle for the tipping of the waste pulled from site when planting, this will be covered within staff and vehicle costs that will be associated with this project.

Ongoing maintenance of 3 hours of watering throughout March to October.

It is suggested that the project is developed further later with the potential of added raised beds made from sleepers, footpaths, and benches. This could be done during the winter projects in 2021 when there are more resources.

Using existing budgets, additional materials could be purchased within this financial year and stored until such time the project is able to go ahead. The cost of additional materials to complete the project is thought to be £1950.00.

Plus the additional labour of 3 operatives and waste disposal using a transit tipper which will be included in staff and vehicle costs.