

Draft SPC 5-year Tree Management Plan

Item 6.13

The idea of this outline Tree Management Plan is to frame the SPC management of its tree resource over a five-year period so that the management and therefore associated cost can be considered in a more programmed and even-handed way, rather than the hitherto and necessarily reactive nature of the SPC Tree management in the recent past.

Since 2014 we have asked an expert arboculturalist to complete a report as a 'Health check' on the SPC tree stock every four years or so, and this serves as our very necessary risk assessment. Please note this proposed plan is not a Tree Risk Management Strategy, which I hope that we may work our way towards in the fullness of time, rather merely a way for us to perhaps consider looking in more detail at certain trees or groups of trees or coppiced areas each year on a cyclical basis to ensure for instance where trees might begin to overhang across boundaries – therefore dealing with this in a more proactive and even handed way. {To reiterate, these issues are not being highlighted in the current tree reports}.

My suggestion is that we divide our tree assets into five small lists of groups and areas with roughly similar number of mature trees and therefore work to be done in each group. Then that Community Committee with the Clerk and the SPC Tree warden consider more closely the assets within the list earmarked for each year, and towards the end of the fiscal year, so that if needs be a determination as to an increase or decrease in the tree management budget costs can be more easily quantified.

In parceling these areas, I have prioritised each yearly zone based upon knowledge of when tree maintenance work has been recently completed and when certain works are likely due once again.

My suggested yearly collective zones are as follows:

Year 1 {Current year}

i, Godstalls Lane; ii, The Steyning Centre

Year 2

i, MPF – Main Play Area trees and those adjacent the Bowls club; ii, Abbey Road 'Grassed'- West of the road; iii, Rublees allotment – western boundary

Year 3

i, MPF – Trees on the hedge boundary with MPF and within the MPF Orchard area; ii, Cripps Lane

Year 4

i, MPF – Eastern boundary; ii, Canada Gardens hedgerow trees; iii, Abbey Road 'Rewilded' - East of the road

Year 5

i, MPF Southern boundary from main entrance to Orchard; ii, Abbey Road adjacent play area

Compiled by John F