

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Environment & Amenities Committee
Meeting date	20th February 2024
Report author	Tim Badcock
Agenda item	11

River Close Tree Timeline

1. **Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To inform members of the timeline for the removal of trees and re-planting at River Close as discussed previously by the committee.

2. **Summary**

- 2.1 It was resolved at a previous meeting of this committee that trees at River Close will be felled in a sensitive manner therefore phased removal and re-planting will take place. This report is intended to give members and residents notice of the timeline of works to be carried out.

3. **Action required**

- 3.1 Members are requested to note the report.

4. **Link to strategic plan and objectives**

- 4.1 This project supports the following of the council's key objectives:
1. To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency.
 2. To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future.
 3. To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future.

5. **Background**

- 5.1 Town council statement re River Close Trees:

'The several Hornbeam trees on the boundary between the play park at River Close and gardens in Baker Road have, for over 20 years, been the source of much concern for occupants of these properties. Many times, the Town Council have reduced the dense canopies of these trees in size and residents have lopped branches back from over their gardens. Each time these resilient trees grow back thicker.

'Whilst the Town Council is dedicated to increasing its green canopy and biodiversity it

Agenda item 11

recognises that the original planting in this area was not well planned and perhaps the choice of tree wasn't well considered by developers.

'The council have made the difficult decision to fell these trees in stages and plant more fitting trees nearby that will have a more open canopy and not grow to the sizes of the current trees. The Town Council will also plant shrubs/ hedgerows on site to increase habitat options for wildlife and increase carbon capture.'

6. **Key information and options**

6.1 **Autumn 2024** – Removal of half the trees at the Preston Road end of the site (every other one)

Autumn 2024 – Planting of shrubs and trees in spaces between existing trees around play park.

Early 2025 – Removal of all 3 trees near play park.

Early 2025 – Further planting near play park.

Autumn 2025 – Planting of shrubs and trees in spaces between existing trees at Preston Road end of site.

Early 2026 – Removal of remaining trees at Preston Road end of site.

Early 2026 – Further planting at Preston Road end of site.

7. **Climate change/green implications**

7.1 Whilst removal of these trees will reduce habitat in the short term, replanting with trees and shrubs that will give a more diverse habitat will improve the sites biodiversity and habitat options for various species.

8. **Financial/budget implications**

8.1 This project can be achieved using 204/4652 Arboriculture in-year works budget

9. **HR implications**

9.1 Project to be managed by the Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager.

10. **Supporting papers and appendices**

None