

PARKS REPORT
RLA – 18 NOVEMBER 2021

- **Broomfield:**

Unfortunately, we were victims of extensive damage (ASB) being done to the cricket square which the park's staff will attempt to repair during the close season.

A broken swing chain has been replaced.

Leaf clearing continues.

The annual shrub pruning will be undertaken soon.

- **Eagles Road:**

As previously agreed, the additional bench has been installed.

The annual shrub pruning will be undertaken soon.

Spring bulbs are scheduled to be planted.

- **Heritage Park:**

As previously agreed, the edges of the steps leading to the rear of Childs Crescent have been re - painted yellow to raise awareness and improve visibility.

Most of the work arising from the previous playground inspection has been completed.

As previously agreed, the x2 new boot scrapers have been installed at the entrance to the park.

Pruning around the Swanscombe Centre has been completed and cutting back in the car park is being undertaken.

Shrub pruning along DS6 has begun and will be completed soon.

- **Knockhall:**

A section of the large multiplay unit was vandalised and parks staff have undertaken the necessary repairs.

Additional spring bulbs have been planted.

- **Manor Park:**

The annual shrub pruning has been completed.

Additional spring bulbs have been planted.

- **Swanscombe Park:**

The bowls season has finished, and reparations have been undertaken. Work to improve the playing surface will continue throughout the winter months.

The tree that was undermining the cemetery wall has been felled.

Winter bedding has taken place at the war memorial beds and in the picnic area beds.

Tennis has now finished for this year.

Shrub pruning and leaf clearing will continue over the coming weeks.

Additional spring bulbs are scheduled to be planted.

- **Saxon Court:**

As previously agreed, an additional bench has been installed.

Additional spring bulbs have been planted.

Shrubs and trees are due to be cut back.

- **Valley View:**

A bench has been installed close to the new play equipment.

The shrubs and trees have been cut back.

- **Equipment:**

All the park's vans have now been serviced.

As previously agreed, the replacement ride-on mower should be with us around the New Year.

Recommended: To note.



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Customer No: SWANS01
Report No: 800719
29/09/2021

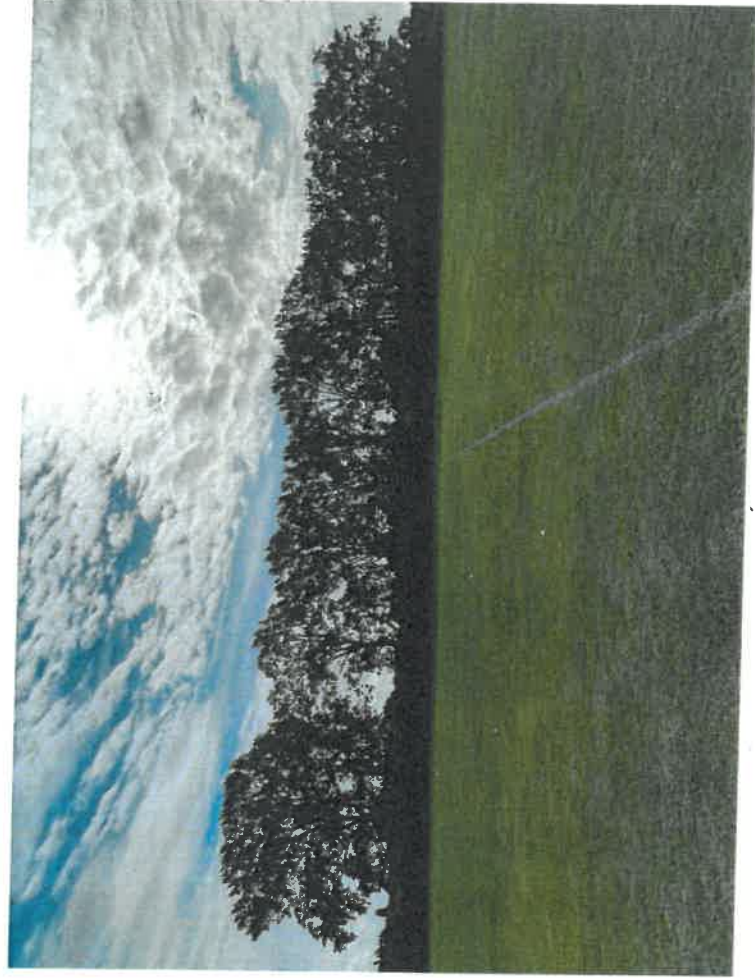
Mr Graham Blew
Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council
The Grove
Swanscombe
Kent
DA10 0GA

Tree Inspection Report

Client: Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council, The Grove,
Swanscombe, Kent. DA10 0GA

Site: Knockhall Recreation Ground, Knockhall Road,
Greenhithe

Conducted by
Steve Launchbury Dip.Hort. (Kew) R.F.S.Cert Arb. Tech. Cert. (Arbor A.)
TechArbor A



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Table of Contents

Introductory Details	3
Scope and Limitations of the Report	3
The Survey	4
Observations & Recommendations	5
Survey Data	7
Council details and TPO / Conservation Area and other Regulations	12
Photos of trees on site.....	14

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Introductory Details

- 1.1. Alltree Consultancy Ltd have been instructed to undertake a tree survey at Knockhall Rectreation ground, Knockhall Road, Greenhithe and to provide a safety assessment of the trees.
- 1.2. The tree survey was undertaken on 28th September 2021 to provide Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council with advice information regarding the safety of the trees.
- 1.3. Survey observations and any required mitigation measures have been detailed in this report.

Scope and Limitations of the Report

- 2.1. This report is an assessment of the health, condition and safety of the trees.
- 2.2. Recommendations on any immediate and future management of the trees based on current best practice guidelines.
- 2.3. Trees are living organisms whose health and condition can change rapidly and all trees, even healthy ones, are at risk from unpredictable climatic and man-made events. The assessment of risk for any tree is based upon factors evident at the time of the inspection and the interpretation of those factors by a suitably qualified inspector. The health, condition and safety of trees should be checked on a basis commensurate with the level of risk and preferably on an annual basis.

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Arboreal Cultural
ASSOCIATION
"Technica Memento" TE484



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- 2.4. The assessment of the trees, conclusions and any recommendations made in this report are valid for a period of 12 months only. This period of validity may be reduced should there be any change in factors affecting both the surrounding environment and built structures within close proximity. In addition, any conclusions were made based on information available at the time of the inspection and any inaccuracies in this information may affect the validity of this report.
- 2.5. The trees were inspected from ground level, further assessment of the trees through climbing or internal investigation was not carried out.
- 2.6. This is not a detailed dimensional report and any measurements given are approximate.
- 2.7. No responsibility is assumed by Alltree Consultancy Ltd for legal matters that may arise from this report and the consultant shall not be required to give testimony or to attend court unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made.
- 2.8. Any alteration or deletion from this report will invalidate it as a whole.

The Survey

- 3.1. The site was surveyed on the 28th September 2021. Each tree was given a unique identity number. A visual tree assessment was made and observations recorded with a recommendation for works if required.
- 3.2. Equipment to hand but not necessarily used for the site assessment includes, Diameter tape, Haglof EC IID Clinometer, Leica Disto D510 laser measure, Sounding hammer, binoculars, long probe and a Trimble Juno 5 hand held GPS.

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Observations & Recommendations

- 4.1. The site is a recreation ground with marked pitches for ball games and a children's playground. To the rear of the recreation ground is a line of 22 mature Hybrid Poplar trees. These trees would appear to be approx. 70 years old at maximum. Behind the line of trees is a high security metal palisade fence as boundary to a steep gorge.
- 4.2. The Northern end of the line of Hybrid Poplars (*Populus x canadensis*) has the largest tree, T1, and the southern end has a poor condition tree slowly declining.
- 4.3. In the last year or two there have been failures where two trees have fallen over. One tree recently shed a large stem section that brought down some other branches at the same time, both in the tree and neighbouring trees.
- 4.4. In the observations, there are regular reports of *Sesia apiformis* holes in the base of the trees. *Sesia apiformis* is a large Hornet moth that burrows into the base of Poplar trees in Europe, one of the factors in the dieback of large poplar trees. The moth leaves large holes around the base that appear to be drill holes approximately the diameter of a pencil. There does appear to be a link in the decline of a Poplar tree, the decay in the base and a dysfunctional vascular system with the number of holes from *Sesia apiformis*.
- 4.5. Each tree was tapped at the base and up to approx. 2m with a nylon headed sounding mallet. The different sounds indicate whether the timber is sound or degraded and whether there are cavities under the bark. Tapping with the sounding mallet is indicative, the next stage is to insert a steel probe by hand. In sound wood, there will be no penetration. The depth that the probe can be inserted gives an indication of the extent of the degradation of the wood.
- 4.6. Observation of the leaf cover and crown density of the tree further indicates as to the overall health of the tree and in particular, the integrity or otherwise of the vascular system. Damage and decay at the base of the tree usually leads to a decline in the overall health as well as the stability of the tree.

- 4.7. Works have been recommended, felling three of the trees that are declining, have basal decay and are potentially unstable. predicting a time scale is notoriously difficult due to the probability nature of what mother nature will deliver. As trees decline, the probability of being affected by strong winds or lack of roots increases over time.
- 4.8. The location of the trees, the potential for damage to people or property must all be taken into account in deciding when it is appropriate to remove a tree. Given the location is a recreation ground, a dog walking area and near the location of a children's playground, the risk level is higher than, say, in a woodland, but lower than, say, a busy highway.
- 4.9. The priority for the tree removal has been set at 6 months as a guideline.
- 4.10. The longer term future for the trees is that some branch and stem failures will inevitably occur. No tree can ever be classed as 'safe'. When T3 had a stem / large branch failure earlier in the year, I was able to inspect the point of failure. It would appear that a small branch died and the lateral buds took over and formed a fork. In due time the dead branch dropped off leaving a small hole that decayed along the weakest protection zone of CODIT (Compartmentalization Of Disease In Trees). The wound to the outside never healed up, leaving a very small hole into the fork that then decayed internally. Ultimately the fork gave out.
- T3 when closely inspected at the present time, is one of the three trees that also have a large number of sesia apiformis holes at the base and decay, found by tapping and probing. undoubtedly, this will have contributed to the decline in T3 and the failure described above.
- T3 is therefore one of the trees recommended to be felled.



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Survey Data

Tree number	Species	Comment	Recommendations	Priority in months
1	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Large dominant tree. Approx 25m tall. 1080mm diameter trunk. Deadwood to 100mm with one branch at 8m lodged which is unlikely to be a significant safety issue. Occasional Sesia apiformis holes at the base. Taps well. Wide heavy crown.	Remove lodged dead branch	3
2	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Smaller tree than t1. Suppressed by t1.		
3	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Declining with an open crown. Large mature tree. In recent months has shed a large stem and branches at 15m and lower. Deadwood up to approx 100mm. Base taps poorly especially to the rear. Probe penetrates up to 150mm in at least three places at the base. Occasional Sesia apiformis holes at the base. Tree marked by paint spot at the rear.	Fell	6
4	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Small suppressed tree. Cavity at 1m at the rear from an old stem removal. Damage at 4m from the failure in t3.	No action at present	

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Arbicultural Association
Technical Member TB484

Tree number	Species	Comment	Recommendations	Priority in months
5	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Mature tree. Reasonable crown density. Minor deadwood scattered throughout. Branch removed at 4m probably due to t3 failure. Taps well. Occasional Sesia apiformis holes at the base.	No action at present	
6	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Mature tree. 23m tall. Base taps well. Occasional Sesia apiformis holes at the base. Good crown density.	No action at present	
7	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Slender mature tree. Good crown density. Taps well. Occasional Sesia apiformis holes at the base. Minor occasional deadwood to approx 75mm	No action at present	
8	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Large mature tree possibly beginning to decline. Upper crown is a little more sparse than should be. A large branch failure at approx 15m also indicates potential decline beginning. Sesia apiformis holes at the base. The base taps well.	No action at present	
9	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Upright mature tree tight against t10 larger tree. Taps well. Occasional Sesia apiformis holes at the base	No action at present	

Tree number	Species	Comment	Recommendations	Priority in months
10	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Large tree. Base taps well except at the rear. Probe goes in by approx 150mm at the rear. Occasional Sesia apiformis holes at the base. Branch failed in the last few years at 15m. Upper half of the crown a little more sparse than should be.	Reinspect in 12 months	
11	Lombardy Poplar	Smaller stature upright tree, sheltered by its neighbours. Smallest diameter tree trunk at 310mm.	No action at present	
12	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Larger tree. Base taps well. Crown reasonable but not dense foliage. Occasional Sesia apiformis holes at the base.	No action at present	
13	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Mature tree with a slight lean to the north. Main root on the tension side has a finger width old break exposed. Taps poorly in three places at the base. Probe can be inserted nearly 150mm in places. There is limited safe useful life for this tree. Occasional Sesia apiformis holes at the base. Crown is just slightly less dense than might be expected with longer bare twigs than usual. The tree is at risk of failure at the base. Paint mark to the rear.	Fell	6
14	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Relatively upright mature tree. Occasional Sesia apiformis holes at the base. Base taps well. Reasonable crown density and leaf cover	No action at present	

Tree number	Species	Comment	Recommendations	Priority in months
15	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Relatively upright tree. Good crown density. Base taps well.	No action at present	
16	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Relatively upright tree overshadowed by t17. Occasional Sesia apiformis holes at the base. Base taps well. Good crown density.	No action at present	
17	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Large sparse crowned tree with leaves yellowing earlier than the other trees. Sesia apiformis holes at the base. Taps ok except on the south side. Bark there is dysfunctional and the tree has a hint of a lean to the North. Probe only goes in a few mm. Potentially the tree has begun to decline.	Reinspect in 12 months	
18	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Tree overshadowed by t19 and against t17 with no branches to the north or south. Old bark mark possibly from ivy removal many years ago at 1m. Base taps well. Crown density is good. Occasional Sesia apiformis holes at the base. Small dead branches at the base of the crown.	Remove the dead branches at the base of the crown	3
19	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Large tree. Crown sparse and open. Base taps poor on north east side and south side. Probe can be inserted to 200mm at one spot on the north east but not at all on the south. Occasional Sesia apiformis holes at the base. Long term the tree is declining	Reinspect in 12 months	



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Tree number	Species	Comment	Recommendations	Priority in months
20	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Smaller height tree overshadowed by taller trees on both sides. Occasional Sesia apiformis holes around the base now host to fungal fruiting bodies, possibly Tricholoma sp. Base taps well. Crown density is good.	No action at present	
21	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Large mature tree. Base taps well. Good crown density. Regrowth on the south side following the tree adjacent going.	No action at present	
22	Hybrid Poplar (Populus x Canadensis)	Large mature tree. Large old cavity in the base on the south side. The bark in places is dysfunctional. The probe can be inserted approximately 75mm through the bark. Crown is declining with lots of dead small branches. There is little long term future for the tree. Marked with a paint spot at the rear.	Fell	6

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Council details and TPO / Conservation Area and other Regulations

The local Council is Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council
Contact is Graham Blew.

- 9.1. Does the site have a TPO? Dartford Borough Council
No
- 9.2. Is the site in a Conservation Area?
No
- 9.3. Does the proposed work require a Felling License?
- 9.4. Felling Licenses are in general required when more than five cubic metres of timber are felled in any one calendar quarter. There are exceptions, such as tree surgery or within gardens and churchyards.
- 9.5. Tree felling Licenses, are required for any felling work that would exceed 5 cubic metres of timber in a calendar quarter. Tree felling without a License can take place under the following conditions:
- 9.6. Felling of up to 5 cubic metres of timber in a calendar quarter as long as no more than 2 cubic metres are sold (and no other restrictions apply e.g. Tree Preservation Orders or Conservation Areas).
Lopping and topping
Felling included in an approved forestry or woodland grant scheme
Fruit trees, trees growing in a garden, orchard, churchyard or designated open space (if no other restrictions apply)
Trees with a diameter of 8cm or less at 1.3m from the ground; thinnings with a diameter of 10cm or less and coppice with a diameter of 15cm or less

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Trees to be felled under a requirement of a valid planning permission
Trees which may threaten life or danger to a third party
Trees to be felled under an act of parliament.

- 9.7. The main exception in relation to planning is as the following extract from the Forestry Commission booklet (dated 2007)
Tree Felling – Getting Permission:
- Felling trees immediately required for the purpose of carrying out development authorized by planning permission granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 is an exception*
- Be aware that Outline Planning permission does not count. It has to be full planning permission that has dealt with reserved matters as well.
- 9.8. If in doubt check with the Forestry Commission
- 9.9. A good booklet to help is found at
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/699889/treefellingaugust.pdf

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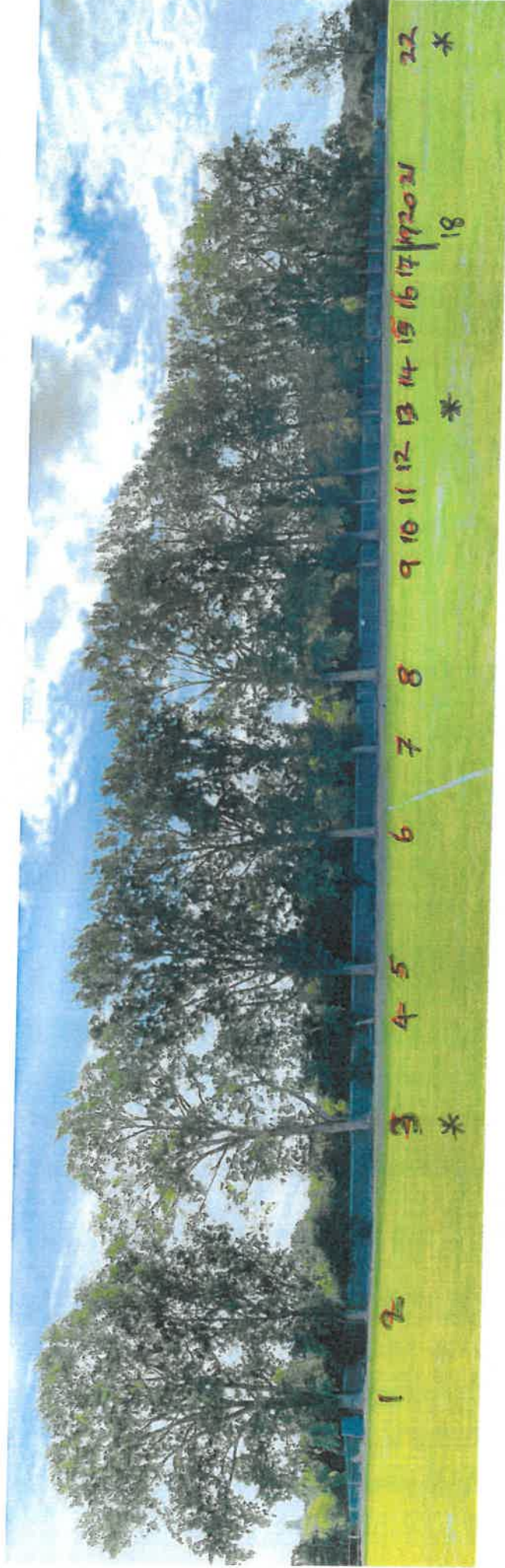
Arbicultural
ASSOCIATION
Technical Register TE484

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Photos of trees on site



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13



22



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Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council
 Council Offices, The Grove
 Swanscombe
 Kent
 DA10 0GA

Date Sent: 06/10/2021
Quote information
 Account No: 2515
 Quote No: SLT-211638
 Surveyor: Steve Launchbury
 Site Ref No: 2954
 Order No:

Quotation

Site Address Knockhall Recreation Ground, Knockhall Road, Swanscombe, DA9 9HJ

Item No	Item	Description Of Work	Value
	Poplar	T1: Remove lodged branch only T3, T13 and T22. Dismantle / Fell to near ground level three trees. Remove all arisings from site. Grind stumps to approx 250mm below ground level Forestry Commission Licence is not required for the following reason: The trees may threaten life or is a danger to a third party.	£4,800.00

Total Value: £4,800.00
 Vat(20%): £960.00
 Total Inc Vat: £5,760.00

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Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council
 Council Offices, The Grove
 Swanscombe
 Kent
 DA10 0GA

Date Sent: 06/10/2021
Quote information
 Account No: 2515
 Quote No: SLT-211640
 Surveyor: Steve Launchbury
 Site Ref No: 2954
 Order No:

Quotation

Site Address Knockhall Recreation Ground, Knockhall Road, Swanscomber, DA9 9HJ

Item No	Item	Description Of Work	Value
	Tree Planting	<p>Supply and plant 6no. trees in Knockhall Recreation ground. The costs includes planting materials, stakes, tube etc.</p> <p>Trees to be double staked and with watering tube. Please note, the trees must be watered for the first three years or until established but not over watered.</p> <p>Trees in the size category of 8-10cm diameter and approx 4m high are ideal for planting in an open area.</p> <p>Plant costs: Expect to spend £250 to £300 plus vat PER tree in addition to the supply and plant cost. ie 3 trees at £250 each and 3 trees at £300 each plus vat comes to £1650 plus vat for the trees. The total will therefore be £1650 + £600 =£2,250 + Vat.</p> <p>Plant selections include Gleditsia tricanthos Sunburst. Liquidambar styracifluar. Sorbus (Rowan variety), Acer platanoides (Norway Maple) or other Acer varieties such as Acer 'Autumn Blaze' or Prunus 'Sunset Boulevard'</p> <p>All the above are potentially suitable. The exact plant selection will depend on what is available at the time once the quote is accepted. There is a supply issue at present, where stocks are quickly sold and slow or difficult to replace. A specific plant choice may have to be substituted for a suitable alternative.</p>	£600.00

Total Value: £600.00 *
 Vat(20%): £120.00
 Total Inc Vat: £720.00

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Queen Elizabeth II - Platinum Jubilee Orchard



AGENDA ITEM 7.2
RLA 18/11/21



Planted in honour of former Cllr Bryan Read



Tree sponsored by Town Mayor (2021-2022) Cllr Lesley Howes



Tree sponsored by Nurture Landscapes / Gavin Jones



Planted in honour of Captain Sir Tom Moore



Tree sponsored by ??????



Tree sponsored by Nurture Landscapes Gavin Jones



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Family Picnic Area



We want everyone to enjoy our family picnic area so please be considerate of others. Whilst we have tried to ensure everything is as safe as possible please be community spirited and help us keep this area nice and pleasant for others to use.

- No dogs are allowed;
- Be aware that there are uneven surfaces and take care;
- Please place any litter in the bins provided or, alternatively take your litter home and dispose of it in your refuse bin there;
- Some of the plants may have sharp edges and some may cause allergic reactions so be aware;
- Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and supervised at all times.

In the case of an emergency the address is Swanscombe Park, Park Road, DA10 0JQ



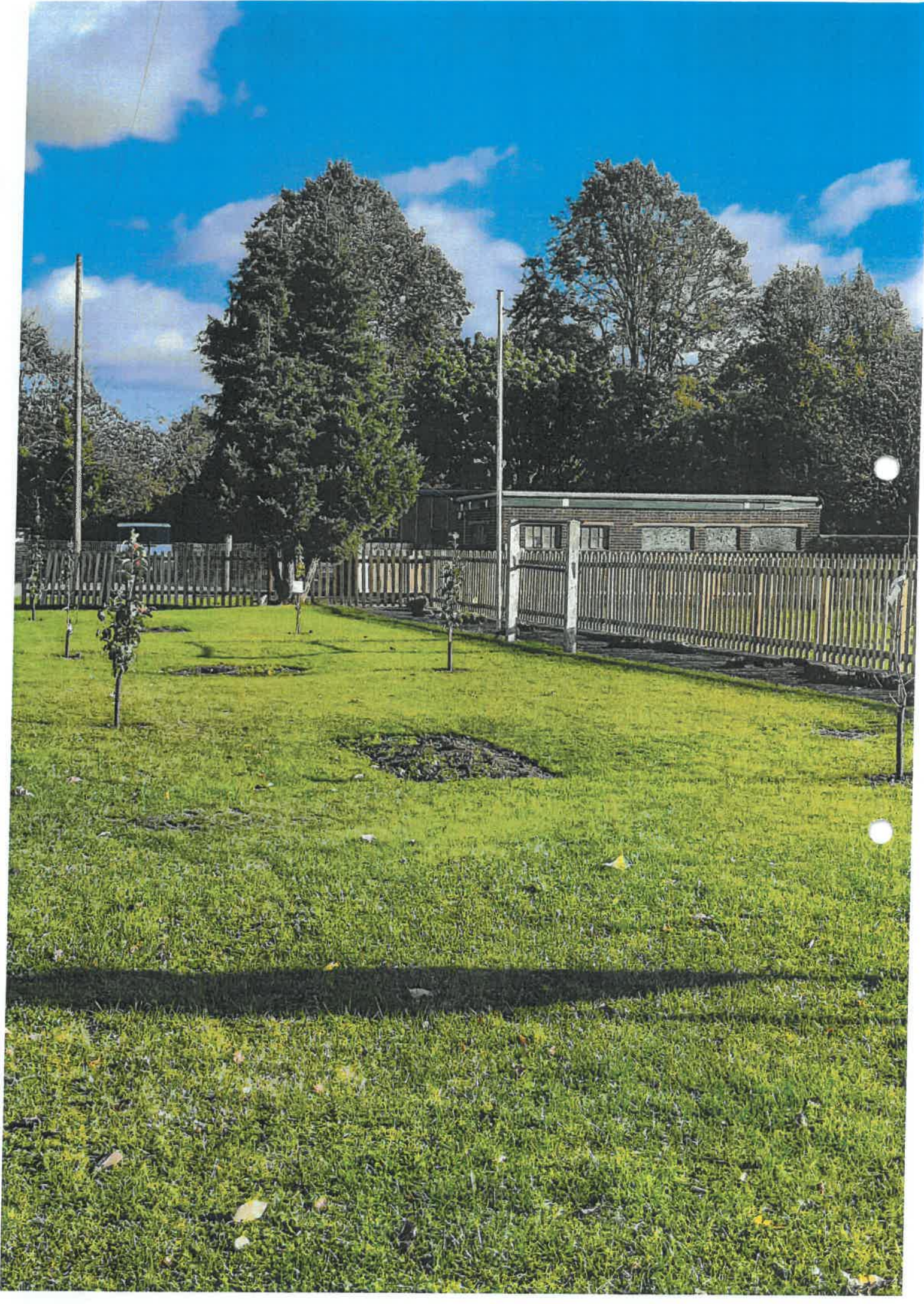
Community Garden



- We want everyone to enjoy our Community Garden so please be considerate of others. Whilst we have tried to ensure everything is as safe as possible please be community spirited and help us keep this area nice and pleasant for others to use.
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 - Be aware that there are uneven surfaces and take care;
 - Please place any litter in the bins provided or, alternatively take your litter home and dispose of it in your refuse bin there;
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 - Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and supervised at all times.

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AGENDA ITEM

RLA 18/11/21 7.3



