



## Clerk Report – Living Christmas Tree March 2024

### Council Actions Required

- That council determine whether to investigate the purchase of a living Christmas tree on the land opposite The Denes.
- That council determine expenditure (and an earmarked reserves sum)

### Background

A resident raised a query regarding the possibility of siting a 'living' Christmas tree on the green space opposite The Denes (Georgewood Road). The clerk consulted with the chairman and obtained further information from Dacorum Borough Council.

### Question to DBC

***Could DBC plant a Christmas tree opposite the Denes if NMPC were to offer to pay and if so, how much would we be looking at for a tree that is a good size please?***

### Response

Our tree suppliers list the following in their current online brochure:

Nordman Fir / not in stock, 1 – 1.5m tall, £287

Norway Spruce / 1 – 1.5m tall, £265

Blue Spruce / <3m tall, £466

This is to supply a tree only. As there are no other trees to deliver at the same time, the delivery fee would probably be in the range of £300-400. Planting would be another £200. An annual maintenance fee would be £40 for each of the first two years.

If planted in DBC land, ongoing maintenance costs would be for us to absorb within annual budgets. Unfortunately, we're now under severe budgetary pressure so would have to agree a maintenance period that NMPC would fund after the initial two-year establishment period. I'd guess at a fairly low fee initially, only something like £50 per year whilst the tree is young. This would include inspection, watering and pruning. Once the tree was 10+ years old and well established, it would just become a standard DBC tree to maintain. However, if it naturally failed or was vandalised, we wouldn't be able to replace it.

Temporary lights – would have to meet whatever legislation covers this in a public place, i.e. low voltage, installed by a qualified electrician with appropriate insurance.

## Considerations

DBC will only use their own supplier

Would tree be covered by insurance should it be stolen?

HCC have confirmed that the land in question is DBC land, however this will need to be clarified with the DBC team prior to purchase.

## Future Actions for a later date/budget consideration

Ongoing maintenance costs

Permissions/insurance should we require lights/wish to hold an event.

## Suggested Alternatives

None

Nikki Bugden 27/2/2024

## Reserves 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024

Account	Opening Balance	Net Transfers	Closing Balance
320 EMR - Business Expenses	15,985.00	-5,985.00	10,000.00
321 EMR - Playpark	5,500.00	-518.36	4,981.64
323 EMR - Election Costs 2023	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.00
324 EMR - Election Costs 2027	3,000.00		3,000.00
325 EMR - Election Costs 2030	3,000.00		3,000.00
326 EMR - Community Support	7,896.15	-3,053.65	4,842.50
327 EMR - Village Hall Support	21.60	-21.60	0.00
328 EMR - Verges	10,000.00		10,000.00
329 EMR - Community Events	866.71	-462.60	404.11
330 EMR - Projects, Denes Defib Jub	106.09	6,800.00	6,906.09
331 EMR - CIL (Conditional spend)	23,001.34	-11,500.00	11,501.34
336 EMR - The Denes CCTV	20.90	-20.90	0.00
338 EMR 4-Yr Plan reserves	0.00	11,372.09	11,372.09
	<b>72,397.79</b>	<b>-6,390.02</b>	<b>66,007.77</b>