

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No.06/20

Date: 17 April 2020

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Purpose: This report provides an outline of progress on the replacement of nine trees in Chatham High Street.

Progress on the replacement of nine trees in Chatham High Street

Background

There are nine trees being replaced. They have each been assessed by the Council's Tree Officer and by Norse, as being diseased or dying, with a risk of falling. Three of the trees are at the side entrance to the Pentagon, four are along Military Road and two are on Railway Street.

These works are being funded under the Chatham Placemaking Local Growth Fund scheme and are within budget.

Replacement works

Retrofitting trees in confined urban spaces, surrounded by a multitude of services, has proved a difficult task. Each element of the project has had to be discussed in depth, to give the new trees the best chance of survival in an environment which is not favourable for trees.

The tree species which has been chosen has a narrow crown, suitable for the High Street environment.

The shape of each of the tree pits has been individually tailored, dictated by the presence of services and street furniture. Each tree pit has achieved five cubic meters volume, necessary for healthy growth of trees of this size.

The original concrete collars could not be replicated to provide the same level of structural security for the trees, so have instead been replaced with tree crates to ensure structural stability.

Specialist topsoil and structural tree sand to suit the urban environment has been used within the tree pits.

Permeable paving has been placed near the side entrance to the Pentagon, to encourage water to reach the tree roots.

Ventilation pipes have been placed around each tree pit, to ensure water and air can get to the tree roots to promote growth.

The tree guards have been replaced to match those along Sun Pier.

Project completion

The tree replacement works have taken place successfully. There are minor snagging elements remaining. A final meeting will be scheduled to sign off completion.

A significant amount of care has been taken to ensure these trees survive, and a maintenance contract has been purchased to ensure the trees do not fail within the next two years.

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