

Interim Inspection of Parish Trees

Following the interim inspection of the parish trees in 2019, work to address the identified was completed over the winter months, with the exception of two dead elms and an Ash at Clopton Green. The invoice was adjusted accordingly, and therefore, the cost of the works to remove the dead elms at Clopton Green has been authorised (£200). The clerk has contacted the tree surgeon to request that this work be completed.

In some instances, the (locations of) parish trees have been difficult to identify, resulting in a delay to works. The Tree Warden has now marked up all the trees on plans to be updated by the clerk to the mapping software, and these have been sent to Acacia tree services who will be undertaking a further interim inspection of the parish trees on 19th August (there is no charge for the interim inspection).

In order to provide clarity and assist with identification, Acacia Tree Services have advised that they would be able to undertake tagging of the trees, either at the interim inspection, or at the next full inspection in Summer 2021. The cost quoted is £300.00. There is currently £1300.00 in earmarked reserves, and £1800.00 budgeted for tree surgery in the current financial year.

The Council's financial regulations require that when entering into contracts for the supply of goods, materials or specialist services (other than those excepted under 11.1.a), the Clerk or RFO shall strive to obtain 3 estimates where the value is below £3,000.

Two further estimates were requested from:

- Suffolk Tree Surgery & Landscape (who undertook the previous work in 2019); and
- Suffolk Treescape

But no responses have been received to date.

Recommendation:

That the cost of tagging the parish trees, at £300 plus VAT, be authorised and Acacia Tree Services be instructed to undertake the work as part of the 2020 interim tree inspection.