

Environment and Amenity Committee

Thursday 5 February 2018
Agenda Item – EA1459/19

Arboriculture Survey of Weston Wood

Introduction

Council have previously been advised (8 December 2016) that we need a professionally produced survey of the trees in Weston wood from a qualified surveyor to determine priority works given that there has been no previous tree management in the woodland.

Discussion

Ground based arboricultural surveys use visual inspection methodologies which look at the structural and physiological condition of individual trees in in order to assess their health, overall condition and whether there is a need for works to be scheduled. The arboricultural survey of the trees that make up Weston Wood will enable us to make informed priority decisions about what arboreal works need to be carried out.

We have received a fixed quote from Arbtech to the price of £1599 +VAT, to provide a ground based condition survey of the trees on site and to produce a summary report, not to scale location plan and a schedule of tree works.

In a recent meeting with Glendale Services we obtained a rough estimate of a day-rate for a tree condition survey to the price of £300. It is likely that the survey will take more than one day and could run up to £900 for three days. Glendale will provide a spreadsheet of all the trees surveyed, including tagging numbers of individual trees, as well as recommendations on health, and possible work schedules.

We have requested a separate quote from Glendale regarding having a Picus Sonic Tomograph test conducted on an individual mature Beech tree on the northern boundary. This test is non-invasive and maps the internal wood density of the trunk to measure decay and structural integrity. This tree has seen significant outward decay in the lower trunk region in the last year and it is important to find out what is occurring inside it, to determine the best way to manage the tree. The quote for this separate test has not been received at the time of issuing this Agenda.

By using Glendale Services to produce the site survey, we will be able to use their tree teams going forward to complete aerial arboreal works which will make the process quicker and easier.

Recommendations

- That we instruct Glendale Services to carry out a ground based tree survey of Weston Wood and the Picus Sonic Tomograph test up to a combined value of £2000.