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| **Report No. 2022/32****Appendix:** **Agenda Item:**  | **Council: Full Council****Date of Meeting: 8 Feb 2023** |
| **OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL** |
| **Report Author: Cllr Hannah Williams** | **Title: Trees** |
| **Title: Tree Planting** |
| **Applicable Strategy:** 1. Ensure that Oakham remains a viable and pleasant environment in which to live, work and play.
2. Maintain and improve OTC land and buildings for the benefit of the community.
3. Promote the town as an attractive place to visit and stay.
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We have received confirmation that, without significant further investigation and expected cost, we will not be able to plant trees on Cutts Close.

In order to promote the town as an attractive place to visit and stay, planting additional trees will provide many benefits:

1. They produce oxygen
2. Help mitigate the effects of climate change through absorbing carbon dioxide
3. Clean our air from pollutants and toxins
4. Protect us from flooding
5. Help keep us cool
6. Provide a home for wildlife
7. Good for mental health and wellbeing
8. As our existing trees reach old age, we will need to plant more trees just to maintain our current tree cover.

Would the Council consider supporting the following motion:

**"Oakham Town Council recognises the benefits trees and hedgerows provide for the climate, air quality, wildlife, people’s well-being and flood management and seeks to increase both tree and hedgerow cover on council owned or managed land.”**

Would the Council therefore support the following action:

**Council to plant additional trees and/ or hedgerows on Centenary Fields and/ or Royce Park.**

**Council agrees to spend up to £4,000 on appropriate trees (in consultation with the Tree officer and Cllr Williams).**