

Agenda Item: 14	<b>Full Council Meeting</b>  <b>Date of Meeting: 8th November 2023</b>
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## OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL

<b>Report Author:</b> <b>Phil Wildbore</b>	<b>Title:</b> <b>Tree Champion</b>
<b>Subject: October 2023 – TREE INSPECTION REPORT – actions arising</b>	
<b>Applicable Strategies:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve the quality of life for residents and businesses in Oakham Town</li> <li>• To provide effective, transparent, and accountable local government of Oakham Town</li> <li>• To protect and enhance amenities in Oakham Town</li> <li>• To preserve and enhance the rural, built, and natural environments of Oakham Town</li> <li>• To enable residents to be involved in the life of Oakham Town and its future development</li> </ul>	

Previously, the Town Clerk reported that a bid had been received from the Forestry Officer of Rutland County Council to refresh our early September 2021 tree inspection report. Members supported this bid of circa £4,500 inc and this latest survey was completed between 3 and 5 October and reported to us on 23 October.

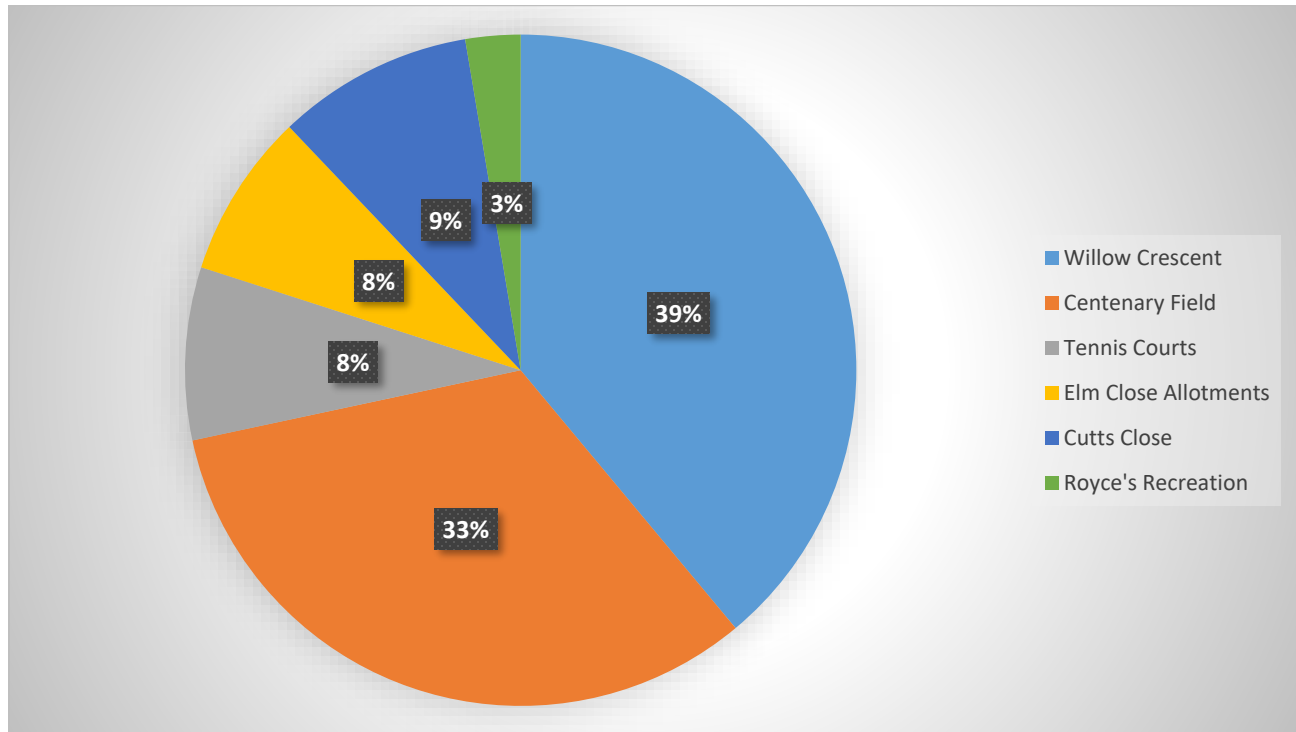
For information and budgetary reasons, I have expedited an analysis.

### **Why a report is needed.**

- The purpose of the report is to provide Oakham Town Council the results of an assessment of the trees, which includes their current condition, risk of harm, work management recommendations and when they next require an assessment.
- Legal duties may arise on Oakham Town Council.
- Prioritisation of findings may help us smooth our commitments, financial and management.

### What do we have in October 2023.

- 529 trees



### What do we need to consider.

DESIGNATION	Number of trees	Location
<b>Priority 2 – High – Legally Required</b> 38 trees – 7.2%	35	Cutts Close & All Saints Churchyard
	2	Centenary Field
	1	Willow Crescent
<b>Priority 2 – Low – Legally Required</b>	3	Cutts Close & All Saints Churchyard
<b>Priority 3 – Low – Legally Required</b> 12 trees	5	Elm Close Allotments
	2	Willow Crescent
	2	Cutts Close & All Saints Churchyard
	2	Centenary Field
	1	Royce's Recreation
<b>Priority 4 – Not Legally Required</b>	8	Royce's Recreation
	3	Tennis Courts/ The Vale
	8	Willow Crescent
	<b>72</b>	<b>13.6% need a level of action</b>

Priority 4 includes:

- installing mower guards as evidence of maintenance damage.
- removing an old/dead fallen tree with honey fungus.
- removing a heavily leaning tree over a low target area. This was identified in the 2021 tree inspection report – so if not done then....

## **Proposals**

For the Town Council to ask the Town Clerk:

1. To get a price for the remedial works from a qualified contractor, keeping to the tabulation.
2. For the Town Clerk to report back to the 13 December 2023 meeting so that members can review the prioritisation and decide what is done in 2023/24; 2024/25 etc, and what works could be done with our own resources.
3. That the Town Clerk liaises closely with the Tree Champion to minimise costs, and granularity e.g., Cutts Close vs All Saints Churchyard.
4. That those leading the review of the Grounds Maintenance contract note in particular inter-relations to items 3.3, 10 & 10.3. 'Tree Maintenance' is a line item in our current Bill of Quantities at all assets, yet is not used?

## **Note**

There are numerous over-lapping strands of management which point to a cohesive strategy needed for trees within Oakham Town Council.

- ❖ The Neighbourhood Plan potentially needs to identify both a protection plan and an expansion plan for trees.
- ❖ Serious attention is needed to the management of current tree stocks and their interaction with grounds maintenance.
- ❖ The management plan for Cutts Close 2015-2021 <https://oakhamtowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/CuttsCloseMP-Jan-2015.pdf> needs revisiting.
- ❖ The split between in-house tasks and those contracted to suppliers needs formal boundaries.