

Agenda Item: 15	Full Council Meeting
	Date of Meeting: 8th November 2023

OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Report Author: Phil Wildbore	Title: Councillor for Barleythorpe Road
Subject: New bulb planting in Centenary Field mature trees area.	
Applicable Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the quality of life for residents and businesses in Oakham Town • To protect and enhance amenities in Oakham Town • To preserve and enhance the rural, built, and natural environments of Oakham Town 	

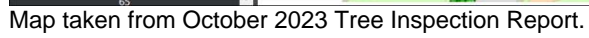
Improvement works to clear and make the mature trees area of Centenary Field more accessible has delivered new pathways. Feedback so far from users including nearby students, residents – especially those in supported/retirement complexes – and visitors across Oakham have positively mentioned that it is a ‘better place to be.’
There are health, well-being, and mental health benefits.

The area before the clearance work was noted to have small outcrops of bluebells, but there is a lot of competition with ground ivy. In its former state folks rarely ventured into this area.

As ‘visitors’ have enjoyed greater accessibility and use the question has been posed ‘what comes next?’ Well, we’ll soon have the trees on the other side of Centenary Field – free gratis. It is now a logical process to commence developing aspects of biodiversity.

Proposals

1. For the Council to endorse that new planting of bluebells, and other likewise bulbs that may become available, and can be planted in the area of mature trees for 2023. (See plan.)
2. Planting needs to be expedited without delay. Costs .0.25p per bulb 250 = £62.50
3. If the Council wish to offer a nominal financial contribution – our handyman/and or supported by local residents as required would undertake the planting.
4. Should other bulbs become available subsequent updates/proposals will be made by myself and these may address all of the Centenary Field.
5. If the above proposals are agreed, the planting is managed through me, as
 - a. There are areas of indigenous bluebells already, albeit sparse;
 - b. There are chipping paths and maintenance piles of spare chippings;



Areas of land not leased by OTC.