

Committee Report: Tree Maintenance Costs for Seven Fields and Penhill Park

Date: Sept 3rd, 2024

To: Finance & General Purposes Committee

From: Andrew Briggs – Ops Manager

Subject: Summary of Tree survey reports

Council Priority: To protect and improve our environment.

1. Introduction

Central Swindon North Parish Council assumed responsibility for tree maintenance within Seven Fields and Penhill Park under the lease agreement with Swindon Borough Council.

Following a comprehensive tree mapping and survey exercise conducted in 2024, several trees across the sites have been identified as requiring remedial work.

This report presents the findings, recommended actions, and associated costs.

2. Findings from Penhill Play Park



Penhill play park
map.docx



Penhill play park,
swindon.docx

The tree survey at Penhill Play Park identified several trees that require attention. Key observations include:

- **Tree Conditions:** Trees of various species, including Oak and Ash, were surveyed. Several trees exhibited signs of stress, including deadwood, broken branches, and low vigour.
- **Recommended Actions:** The survey recommends a mix of urgent and high priority works, such as the removal of deadwood, cutting back branches interfering with structures, and monitoring certain trees for diseases like Ash dieback.
- **Costs:** £749.11

3. Findings from Penhill Public Park



Penhill public park,
swindon.docx



penhill public park
map.docx

The survey at Penhill Public Park revealed similar issues:

- **Tree Conditions:** Mature trees, many of which are over 20 meters in height, were noted to have deadwood and structural issues that pose potential risks to park visitors.
- **Recommended Actions:** High-priority actions include the immediate removal of hazardous branches and ongoing monitoring of trees with lower vigour.
- **Costs:** £1,591.64

4. Findings from Seven Fields Recreation Ground



Seven Fields
recreation ground, sw



Seven fields
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Seven Fields Recreation Ground hosts a variety of trees, some of which are overmature and in need of significant intervention:

- **Tree Conditions:** The survey identified several trees with extensive deadwood, leaning trunks, and other hazards. The target rating for many of these trees is high due to the recreational use of the space.
- **Recommended Actions:** The highest priority works include felling a few dangerous trees and carrying out remedial pruning on others.
- **Costs:** £1,718.75

Total cost for all works - £4,059.50

5. Budget Allocation

£2,000 was allocated within the 24/25 budget.

Due to urgent works at Edinburgh St Rec (£2,680.59) and Even Swindon CC (£548.00), The budget is already overspent. With Further tree works likely given the survey of all leased assets.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The tree surveys across Seven Fields and Penhill Park highlight the need for significant investment in tree maintenance to ensure the safety, and longevity of the species. It is recommended that the committee:

- Acknowledge the liabilities involved with managing trees on its estate.
- Approve the allocation of funds for urgent and high priority works. Attributing to overall Grounds Maintenance budget 200/5525.
- Plan for a phased approach to less urgent works.
- Consider an increase in the 2025/26 tree maintenance budget.