Leisure & Recreation Committee

Report: Proposed tree planting at Ferndale Rec and Clive Parade
Date: 12.11.2026
Report Author: Andrew Briggs, Operations Manager

1. Purpose of the report

To seek support for proposed tree planting at Ferndale Road Playing Field and replacement planting in the Clive Parade planters, developed with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Swindon Borough Council's Community and Forest Woodland Team. Trees for Climate funding is being sought to cover the trees, planting and long term maintenance.

2. Background

CSNPC has delivered Trees for Climate projects over the past five years. The current proposals would continue this programme, improving the appearance of public spaces and providing additional tree cover, wildlife habitat, shade and longer-term climate benefits.

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust has prepared the attached plans. These show the current proposals. The Trust has advised that the species mix for Ferndale Road Playing Field remains subject to consultation feedback. Suitable trees for the conditions within the Clive Parade planters are also still being investigated.

3. Ferndale Road Playing Field

The proposals cover the Harcourt Road frontage and additional planting within the playing field, including specimen trees towards North Star Avenue. The plans also indicate groups of flowering trees, a hedgerow and a shrub area. Final species, quantities and positions will need to be agreed following consultation and site checks.

The Harcourt Road element would serve a defensive planting purpose alongside the wider landscape and environmental benefits. The verge is currently protected by wooden posts which are rotting. Rather than committing expenditure to replacing these posts throughout, appropriately positioned trees could provide a longer-term alternative to discourage vehicle encroachment onto the grass.

Councillor Ian Edwards has expressed support for the Harcourt Road proposal.



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4. Clive Parade

Previous tree planting at Clive Parade has failed on two occasions. The proposal is to replace the failed trees within the existing planters using species suited to the site and container conditions. The supplied plan identifies six planting pot locations.

Before replacements are ordered, the Trust's advice should address the likely reasons for the previous failures. The aim is to establish planting that can be maintained successfully, with the final species and aftercare requirements agreed before delivery.



5. Delivery and consultation

Officers have asked Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to confirm the consultation arrangements and provide the results once complete. Confirmation has also been requested of the proposed species for both locations and whether CSNPC needs to obtain tree and labour prices to support the funding application.

Subject to Committee support, officers would work with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Swindon Borough Council to finalise the proposals and progress the Trees for Climate funding application. Before planting, officers would confirm any necessary highway permissions, underground service checks and appropriate clearances from paths and roads, ensuring compatibility with the recreational use and maintenance of the playing field.

The final specification would include the trees, planting, stakes, guards and five years of maintenance. At Clive Parade, species selection and establishment arrangements would take account of the previous planting failures.

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6. Financial implications

Trees for Climate funding is being sought to cover the full cost of the trees, planting, stakes, guards and five years of maintenance. Subject to confirmation of funding, there would be no initial cost to the Parish Council for delivering the proposed planting schemes. The grant award and total project value remain to be confirmed.

The Harcourt Road proposals would also provide an opportunity to avoid expenditure on wholesale replacement of the deteriorating wooden posts by establishing a planted boundary. This potential saving has not been quantified.

Following the initial five-year funded maintenance period, CSNPC would incorporate the trees into its existing tree inspection and maintenance programmes, with ongoing work managed through the Council's established arrangements and budgets.

7. Recommendations

1. **Support** in principle the proposed planting at Ferndale Road Playing Field, including Harcourt Road and North Star Avenue, and replacement planting within the Clive Parade planters, as illustrated in the attached plans.
2. **Support** progression of the Trees for Climate funding application to meet the full cost of the trees, planting, stakes, guards and five years of maintenance, with delivery subject to written funding confirmation and no initial cost to the Parish Council.
3. **Authorise** officers to agree the final species, planting positions and delivery arrangements with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Swindon Borough Council, taking account of consultation feedback, site suitability and any necessary permissions. Material changes to the proposals should be referred back to Committee.
4. **Note** Councillor Ian Edwards' support for the Harcourt Road proposal and the opportunity to use defensive planting as a longer-term alternative to replacing deteriorating wooden posts, with suitable protection maintained during establishment.
5. **Ensure** the Clive Parade proposals address the previous planting failures through appropriate species selection and agreed planting and aftercare arrangements.
6. **Confirm** that, following the five-year funded maintenance period, the trees would be incorporated into CSNPC's existing tree inspection and maintenance programmes.

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Appendix A Ferndale Road Playing Field overview

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Ferndale Road Playing field Tree planting Full view

Land App



Produced on Land App, Oct 28, 2026.
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50 m
Scale 1:2500 (at A4)

N

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Appendix B Harcourt Road planting proposals

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Ferndale Road Playing field Tree planting
Harcourt road

Land App



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50 m
Scale 1:1250 (at A4)

N

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Appendix C North Star Avenue planting proposals

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Ferndale Road Playing field Tree planting
North Star Avenue

Land App



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50 m
Scale 1:1250 (at A4)

N

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Appendix D Clive Parade replacement planting

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Clive Parade plant pots

Land App



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30 m
Scale 1:500 (at A4)

N

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