

DECISION-MAKER:	PLANNING AND RIGHTS OF WAY PANEL			
SUBJECT:	REMOVAL OF A TREE ON THE WOODMILL OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES CENTRE SITE.			
DATE OF DECISION:	16 MARCH 2010			
REPORT OF:	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOODS			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None.

SUMMARY

The removal of one Oriental plane tree on the edge of the lake to make way for a disabled access fishing/kayaking pontoon.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) Removal of one Oriental plane tree by Woodmill fishing lake and replacement with two trees of a species and size agreed with the Senior Tree Officer.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. This report is submitted for consideration as a matter of urgency in order to secure externally sourced funding for the wider works that are dependant on the tree works taking place before the end of the financial year. The report has been subject to internal consultation which has delayed its final submission and further delay would put in question the tree works commencing and allocation of external funding sought.
2. To allow access for disabled fishing and kayaking by allowing a jetty to be built.
3. To increase participation in outdoor education for minority groups.
4. The removal of the Oriental plane, on the edge of a woodland area, would have no significant affect on the visual amenity of the area.

CONSULTATION

5. David Drew, the Operations Manager of the Woodmill Outdoor Centre, consulted with the City Tree Officer who indicated that in principal there are no objections to the removal of the tree subject to the normal requirement for replanting of agreed species on a two-for-one basis.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

6. To build the pontoon in an alternative location is not possible due to size of the structure and the presence of other trees.

DETAIL

7. Woodmill Outdoor Centre have recently received funding from the Aiming High scheme, a Government initiative to broaden access to short break activity provision for young disabled people in the community. The funding would enhance the existing facilities to create improvements that would help the site to comply with the Disability and Discrimination Act. In turn this will allow people with disabilities to access and participate in activities on site.
8. Works have been designed with the existing site in mind and impact on the existing landscape has been kept to a minimum. However, the multi-stem Oriental plane on the northern bank of the fishing lake cannot be safely retained should the pontoon be built.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

9. Under the Aiming High scheme the Centre has been awarded £130,000 and Recreation Services have added a further £30,000 towards the projects. This funding is required to be enacted this financial year to be secured.

Revenue

10. The proposed projects are expected to generate up to £30,000 in additional revenue a year

Property

11. The enhancement made under this scheme will benefit existing centre users.

Other

12. There are no negative implications for the removal of the tree on any third parties. The tree is not visible to the general public and does not border any public property.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

13. In accordance with the Constitution, any decision relating to Council trees, unless delegated, will be determined by the Planning Panel.

Other Legal Implications:

14. Creation of this new provision will provide new opportunities for young disabled people, adults and families to engage in positive outdoor activities in accordance with the Council's duties under equalities legislation.
15. This provision is not expected to negatively contribute to Crime and Disorder within the City. However, it is noted that a number of agencies use Woodmill grounds to undertake work early intervention and rehabilitation work with young people. This new provision would positively contribute towards that work and is therefore consistent with the Council's duties under S.17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

16. Completing these works will allow Woodmill to actively contribute to the Government's N18 target (Adult Participation) by creating new opportunities for adults to participate in sporting activities.
17. Completing these works would also contribute towards the Council meeting the statutory requirements of The Disabled Children's Standard, which is part of the National Service Framework for Children.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Location map
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None.
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Background Documents

1.	None.	Not applicable
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Background documents available for inspection at: None.

FORWARD PLAN No: None **KEY DECISION?** No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Swaythling and Bitterne Park
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