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Subject: Site 6 Felpham (Phases 3, 4 & 5) - Young Tree Survey

Dear all

I have concluded my survey and the supporting spreadsheet (tree survey data) and plans can be found at the following locations:

Greenspace Team [\\thunder.in.arun.gov.uk\Home\\$\mark.warwick\Mark Warwick\Site 6 Felpham\Phases 3,4,5.Young Tree Survey.August 2019](\\thunder.in.arun.gov.uk\Home$\mark.warwick\Mark Warwick\Site 6 Felpham\Phases 3,4,5.Young Tree Survey.August 2019)

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The following condition ratings have been consistently applied and are intended to instruct an appropriate response to secure the long-term establishment and success of these trees.

Good – establishing well and appears to be adequately maintained.

Fair – viable for retention at this time but only likely to establish well with improved maintenance.

Poor – unlikely to remain viable for retention unless prompt and intensive maintenance is applied. If dieback is advanced it may be more economical and aesthetically desirable to remove and replace.

Dead – should be extracted and replaced during next winter planting season.

List of poor maintenance/aftercare issues observed and likely effect:

1. **Overtight ties and spacers** – prevents adequate root agitation and stem thickening below support height. Prone to 'windthrow' once removed from support. In several cases the ties are distorting new wood formation and becoming occluded.

2. **Redundant stakes left in-situ and incorrect use of or absence of ties and spacers** – causes stem to rub against support stake and create wounds, leading to decay/dieback and risk of stem snapping.
3. **Absence of any protection against strimmer/mower damage** – mechanical wounds around stem base. This severely inhibits early growth potential from which it can take years to recover (if at all) and invites the ingress of harmful decay fungi.
4. **Rootball cage left intact** – heavy wire mesh cage. This can cause severe damage to roots as they increase in girth having grown out beyond the rootball.
5. **Lack of organic matter incorporated within planting pit or as top-dressing.** Roots will struggle to obtain adequate nutrient from the clay subsoil and coarse aggregate which is typical of ground conditions found across the site.
6. **Soil heaped up (clay subsoil) and compacted around stem bases.** Will limit and in some cases eliminate potential for gaseous exchange over roots (asphyxiation). Also creates ideal conditions for bark death and disease.
7. **Established vegetation (hedgerows and tree groups) in close proximity.** Suppressing establishment and uniform development of branches. Leads to irregular and undesirable form, in some cases dieback occurs.
8. **Lack of formative pruning.** Many trees have become 'leggy' and vulnerable to stem/branch breakage and/or have been allowed to develop irregular branch frameworks.
9. **Lack of effective mulch/weed control.** Competition with surrounding grass and annual weed growth places tree at risk of drought stress.

Conclusions:

The vast majority of trees appear to be under significant physiological distress, arising from a combination of the above:

Common contributory factors (proven) – poor soil conditions, lack of weed suppression, incorrect planting level (soil piled up around stem bases), strimmer/mower damage.

Common contributory factors (suspected) – poor timing of planting, inadequate irrigation.

I hope this information will prove helpful and enable you to make progress with issues of concern.

I will be happy to discuss outcomes from the survey with yourselves and any interested 3rd parties.

Regards,

Mark

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