

For submission to Amenities and Leisure Committee, 2.3.22

Earley Tree Register and Tree Survey – draft statement of purpose for press and prospective volunteers

Statement of Purpose

A cross party group of councillors is leading a project to review existing Earley Town historical/notable trees on the Wokingham District Veteran Tree Association (WDVTA) website and to identify those trees which were not included in the last major review, but which now warrant inclusion.

Background

At the time of writing, the town of Earley has 516 notable and veteran trees on the WDVTA website. These are historical trees many of which existed way before the urban area of Earley grew up; they need to be identified, looked after and protected because of their historical importance and the positive impact they have on the environment.

The first step is to ensure the current WDVTA register is accurate. The website is really useful but the tree record needs to be updated: some trees do not exist anymore; on the top of the 516 trees recorded, there are many other trees which now need to be identified, measured and photographed. Additionally, some/many of these new trees may be candidates for Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) to prevent them from being cut down.

There is a great of work to do to validate existing trees as well as identify new ones. Earley covers a large area and so it has been decided to split the activities into 2 phases:

- Phase 1 – Validate existing trees on the WDVTA website which will include those no longer with us that can be removed from the register
- Phase 2 – identify new trees which are candidates to be added to the WDVTA website

The best way of approaching this is to mobilise a group of volunteers to work on a geographical grid of Earley Town.

If you are interested in this project and want to learn more about our wonderful trees, please contact:

Earley Town Councillors Tahir Maher (tahirmaher@earley-tc.gov.uk), Sheena Matthews (sheenamathews@earley-tc.gov.uk) or Andrew Long (andrewlong@earley-tc.gov.uk)