



Subject:	Avenue of Trees at Knocknagoney Park
Date:	13 October 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Alan McHaffie Senior Woodland and Recreation officer

Is this report restricted?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	<p>At the People and Communities Committee on September 8th a proposal for an Avenue of trees to celebrate the Queen's reign as Head of State was considered.</p> <p>Following discussion the Committee agreed to consider the options for Knocknagoney Park as an alternative to Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park, which was considered unsuitable for reasons outlined below.</p>
2.0	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is asked to agree:</p> <p>That an avenue of trees, consisting of sixty three large Tilia platyphyllos 'Rubra' – "Red-twigged Lime", one tree for each year of Her Majesty's reign, be planted at Knocknagoney Park to celebrate the Queen becoming the longest reigning Head of State in the history of the United Kingdom on 9th September.</p>

3.0	<p>Main report</p>
	<p>At the meeting of the Council on the 1st September 2015, it was proposed by Alderman Stalford and seconded by Alderman McGimpsey, that an avenue of trees be planted at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park; the Council noted:</p> <p><i>“The powerful and positive contribution that Her Majesty has made through her very long years of public service. Given the singular nature of this momentous occasion, the Council agrees to commission the planting of an avenue of trees in Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park as part of a programme of events to celebrate this singular event in world history.”</i></p> <p>Officers from the Landscape Planning and Development unit assessed the proposal to install the avenue of trees at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park, but it was found that there wasn't a suitable location within the Park, due to the extent of existing mature trees and shrubs. Further site investigations were undertaken to identify a more appropriate Park that had adequate space to allow these trees to grow and develop and would eventually form a striking avenue in years to come.</p> <p>The most suitable site identified by the Landscape Planning and Development unit is Knocknagoney Park as it has both the length and space to create something very significant (see Appendix No1). Knocknagoney Park achieved Green Flag status in July 2015 and the proposed installation of an avenue of trees would form a striking avenue and further enhance the sites' development as a community park.</p> <p>Regarding the tree species, it was suggested that a variety of apple tree could be used to form the avenue. The use of apple trees in a busy open space such as Knocnagoney Park would not be advisable because of the hazards created by falling fruit potentially causing slips as well as being an attraction for people to climb or damage the trees to access the fruit. This has been the experience of the Senior Woodland and Recreation officer where ornamental fruiting trees were previously used as street trees and it led to complaints from the general public regarding slippery surfacing, as well as the attraction of young people throwing fruit at one another.</p> <p>The Landscape Planning and Development unit has sought advice in the planting of tree avenues from one of the leading tree nursery growers in the south of England; Hillier Nurseries and they have also advised against using fruit trees; but instead plant trees such as <i>Tilia platyphllos</i> 'Rubra' – “Red twiggged Lime” that develop into a strong shape and form as well as giving additional colour during the autumn and winter periods.</p>

	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The cost for the supply and planting of sixty three large Tilia platyphyllos 'Rubra' – “Red-twigged Lime” trees will be £25,000 and will be accommodated within the Parks and Leisure Budget.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 – View of recommended planting site.