

Correspondence Received – Proposal for Tree Planting in St Andrew’s Churchyard

**1. Purpose of Report** To inform Council of correspondence received regarding a proposal to plant additional trees in St Andrew’s Churchyard, and to seek direction on how the Council wishes to proceed.

**2. Correspondence Summary** An email was received from a resident requesting that the Parish Council consider a proposal for them to:

supply, plant, and stake a number of trees within the churchyard during the winter planting season.

Their aim is to increase biodiversity within the churchyard while ensuring that planting does not interfere with space required for future burials. A sketch plan (Appendix A) was provided showing suggested planting locations, and the residents have asked that the proposal be considered by the Open Spaces Committee.

**3. Officer Assessment of Proposed Locations** The sketch identifies two proposed planting areas:

one area with two trees, and one area with three trees.

However, neither of these locations is considered suitable because:

one area falls within land already allocated by the Clerk for future memorial placements; and

the other is currently used by the grave digger for spoil storage following burials.

Planting trees in these areas would therefore conflict with operational needs and restrict burial space.

No alternative locations have yet been assessed, but there may be potential elsewhere in the churchyard, subject to:

- adequate clearance from existing graves,
- no obstruction to future burials,
- no interference with maintenance access, and
- compliance with Churchyard Regulations.

**4. Suggested Approach** While the specific locations proposed are not suitable, the offer of volunteer-led planting to enhance biodiversity is positive and aligns with the Council’s environmental objectives.

It is therefore recommended that:

- the Open Spaces Committee reviews the proposal;
- alternative, suitable planting locations are identified (if any); and

- the Committee provides guidance on appropriate species, spacing, and long-term maintenance implications.

## 5. Recommendations

The Open Spaces Committee is asked to:

1. Consider the correspondence received from residents proposing tree planting in the churchyard.
2. Assess whether any alternative planting locations within the churchyard may be suitable, noting that the two locations proposed are not appropriate due to operational and burial-space constraints.
3. Provide recommendations to Full Council on whether tree planting can be accommodated elsewhere in the churchyard, and if so, identify suitable locations and species.

A report will then be brought back to Full Council once the Committee has completed its assessment.

Appendix A:

