

TKBTC Clerk

From: Kate Surry <kate.surry@conwy.gov.uk>
Sent: 31 March 2023 17:56
To: TKBTC Clerk
Cc: Cllr Michael Smith; Cllr Nigel Smith; Cllr Kay Redhead
Subject: RE: Kinmel Bay / Towyn Urban Tree Planting Contract Completion
Attachments: St Asaph Av Staking July 2022.jpg; St Asaph double stake .jpg

Good Evening Dylan

To reply to your email 24th March and a subsequent voicemail message from Councillor Nigel Smith on the St Asaph Avenue Trees.

All the St Asaph Avenue Trees were underground guyed with a webbing and ratchet system.

4 no. trees were staked with crossbars installed 7th of April 2022

The attached image provided by the contractor taken in July 2022 shows the remaining trees which were single staked. I could see evidence of sawn off stakes below the mulch at recent handover meeting. I do not know why the original stakes were removed. It is very disappointing but it is not a contractual responsibility for Lowthers to replace removed/vandalised staking.

Lowthers would be happy to advise the town council around adequate staking or more mature trees in this exposed location where trees need to withstand high natural wind speeds and that of heavy vehicles travelling by at upto 50mph when they are completing replacement planting in the area over the coming weeks. If you wish to take up the offer please contact Roy Bellamy roy.bellamy@lowther.co.uk or Kevin.Ellis@lowther.co.uk whom have managed and worked on the scheme respectively for dates when they will be in Kinmel.

Lovely news regarding otter sighting at Kinmel/Rhyl, I would be interested to know more about this.

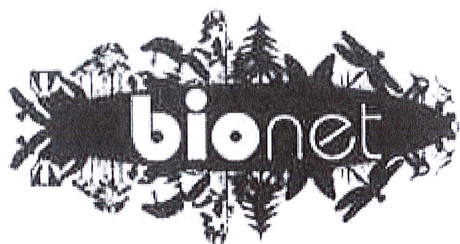
Kind regards
Kate

Kate Surry
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From: TKBTC Clerk
Sent: 24 March 2023 09:28
To: Kate Surry
Cc: Cllr Michael Smith ; Cllr Nigel Smith ; Cllr Kay Redhead
Subject: RE: Kinmel Bay / Towyn Urban Tree Planting Contract Completion

Good morning Kate

Thank you for the update, which I will present to the members at the next meeting.

It's unfortunate that the contractors/CCBC seem to be washing their hands of the so call tampered trees, had they not been temporary secured, they would all have been dead by now, as the strong winds before Christmas would have snapped them in half/ripped them out of the ground, as they were completely unsecured, and most were on a 45 degree angle of less.

Given that, had they not been secured by a third party, they would probably all need to be replaced, and given that the contractors failed to secure/stake the trees in the first place, I believe that they should at the very least re-stake these trees.

Furthermore I would add, if the contractors are as professional and experienced as they claim, why did they make such a poor job of planting the trees, and why did they not stake the trees.

Kind Regards

Dylan Thomas
Town Clerk & Finance Officer
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From: Kate Surry <kate.surry@conwy.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 March 2023 16:18

To: TKBTC Clerk <clerk@tkbtc.co.uk>

Subject: Kinmel Bay / Towyn Urban Tree Planting Contract Completion

Good Afternoon Dylan

In response to your email queries 28/02/23 around the urban tree planting contract Towyn/Kinmel Bay sites. I am not long in from a handover site visit with the contractors and contract manager. A full list of defects (predominantly natural failures) will be drawn up by contract manager for contractors to complete satisfactorily before completion certificate issued 13th April 2023. As explained previously any vandalism or tampering e.g revised staking by third party will not be addressed by the contractors.

Gors Road: 1 tree has been vandalised (appears to have been cut off) will not be replaced

Owain Glyndwr Park: Unfortunately there has been a lot of vandalism across the planting scheme in this park with all weeping willow standards and many of the existing birch having been snapped off. We have explored the use of cameras in the park, but there use was deemed unlawful. Having suggested the area for tree planting maybe the town council can implement some actions to save the remaining planting scheme in the park – a presence in the park evenings/weekends (?). Remaining trees here will be mulched. A severely leaning Alder will be staked and the Black Pine likely to have succumbed to Wolly Aphid will be replaced (likely with hawthorn).

Ffordd Y Berllan: Additional strainers will be added to the chestnut paling spans of the woodland compartment to the east of the main park entrance to better tension the fencing. I think the main reason for the fence slackening here is that a goal post has been erected directly in front of the fencing and access by players/blows from footballs etc has damaged the fencing. I met the owner of 15 Ffordd y Berllan, Russell whom has erected the goal post and suggested that if goal posts could be placed on an east-west orientation rather than north-south it would likely prevent damage to the enclosure. Russel informed me that there had been a local meeting with the intention of forming a Friends of Group for the Park which is very encouraging.

10 apple trees have died within the orchard – disease suspected looking at bark texture. These will be replaced with alternative species such as Flowering Cherry.

The Standard trees planted along the hedge line will be high staked to prevent excessive leaning. There was evidence of flail damage on these presumably from when the adjacent hedge has been trimmed.

The young woodland will need assessing in 3-4yrs to decide if any thinning is required. The grassland in the fenced compartments will require grass cutting and removal once per year in late Summer and the tree guard repositioning as they are blown or kicked off.

As the planting matures if well nurtured a lovely biodiverse public greenspace will have been created here.

St Asaph Avenue

The staking on the majority of the trees professionally completed by the contractor (23 in total) has largely been removed by a third party and replaced with inadequate support systems. A couple of Alder trees which remain as planted and staked by contractors which are dead will be replaced by Lowthers. The remaining trees (thankfully still alive) that have been 'tampered' with will not be touched by the contractors. However, they require a professional robust e.g. triple staked system to support them and ensure their long term survival, provided stakes do not get stolen... Should the Town Council wish to pursue this Lowther's, the contractors with their wealth of experience in public realm/highway planting schemes would be happy to advise on suitable specifications.

Kind regards
Kate

Kate Surry
Ecologydd / Ecologist