



MEETING PAPER

Subject: Tree Works at Uplands

Meeting: Full Council Agenda Item 91.4

Date: 26 September 2023

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~/NON CONFIDENTIAL

Background/Introduction

Full Council decision of June 2023 (item 45.2A) refers.

To proceed with occupying the land, ensuring compliance with the legal advice in how to do this, including installing fencing and signage and cutting the grass. Assuming there is no legal challenge, the tree works should be undertaken on an agreed basis and if the land is occupied for any length of time, precautionary ground surveys should be carried out. A separate meeting should be arranged to consider whether to 'un-occupy' the land or continue to occupy it with a view to claiming ownership after twelve years.

Details

A sign to state that the land is being maintained by LTC is soon to be installed and this will represent the start of the 12 year period required to formally claiming ownership of the land.

In the meantime, Officers have actively tried to action the tree works but currently have been unable to find a tree contractor who is prepared undertake work on land that is now owned by the Town Council and, as such, possibly be liable for trespass.

However, one contractor has suggested a solution and that is to access the trees from the gardens of the residential properties and carry out the works on the branches that residents are concerned will fall into their gardens. As previously advised, Suffolk Highways have, and will continue to, inspected the trees for any safety concerns for users of the highway and, therefore, the safety aspect of that side of the trees/road is already covered.

Recommendations/Decision

To consult with residents of the merits of this possible solution which could be immediately delivered.