

Report

Report to:	Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
Date of Meeting:	2 February 2022
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	COVID-19 Memorial – Tree Planting
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the paper is to: -

- ◆ Provide an update on the Covid 19 memorial tree planting project

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s)

- (1) Note the contents of the report.

3. Background

3.1. As part of the 2021/2022 Revenue Budget approved on 24 February 2021, £300,000 was allocated to promote alternative food growing within the Council area, the Food Strategy Support Fund.

3.2. The Climate Change and Sustainability Committee, at its meeting on 25 August 2021, approved the planting of fruit trees in 13 locations across South Lanarkshire as a memorial to those who passed away due to COVID-19. The report indicated that, due to difficulties in sourcing trees, planting was unlikely to progress until 2022.

3.3. The proposal was deemed to be the most appropriate way to provide a memorial to local communities for reflection but would also contribute to wider community objectives and:-

- ◆ officially recognise those who have passed away during the COVID-19 pandemic on a local basis
- ◆ highlight the importance of tree planting for the environment and future generations
- ◆ increase the level of tree canopy cover in South Lanarkshire as well as the overall environmental, social and economic benefits tree planting brings and, therefore, carbon sequestration.
- ◆ complement the work of the Council's Biodiversity objectives by supporting a range of actions around increasing biodiversity as reported annually through the Council's Biodiversity Duty Implementation Plan.
- ◆ link directly into the aims of the food growing strategy and action plan and will contribute to the annual report in terms of alternative food growing provision

4. Planting of the Orchards

- 4.1. Through working with the procurement team, Grounds Services managed to source 800 trees and these were delivered in late November.
- 4.2. As agreed in the previous Committee report Grounds Services:-
 - ◆ worked with local community groups to agree the most suitable areas for the trees to be planted within the 13 locations as identified in Appendix 1.
 - ◆ working with Corporate Communication, developed a press campaign for the orchard planting.
 - ◆ contacted local members and community groups were contacted to invite them to participate in the planting of the orchards.
 - ◆ arranged dates with all groups and local members for the planting of the orchards in December 2021
- 4.3. During discussions with local groups, two alternative locations were identified and trees were planted at these locations, these being
 - ◆ Biggar Burnbraes Park instead of Biggar Park
 - ◆ Lanark Moor instead of Lanark Loch
- 4.4. Ground Services will continue to monitor the sites during 2022 and ensure that, where required, any remedial work such as replacing tree guards or tree stakes is undertaken. It will take 1 to 2 seasons for these areas to get established and before communities start to see fruit. Prior to this, discussions will continue with food groups and local schools/communities in relation to the harvesting of the fruit.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. Although there are no additional employee implications with regard to this proposal, staff will be required to assist with co-ordination and harvesting of the fruit in the future.
- 5.2. Council officers on the Good Food Network and Food Growing Group will promote this proposal with a view of encouraging community involvement in the management of these areas.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. No further financial implications from this report.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. This proposal will contribute to the implementation of the Food Growing Strategy and also directly contribute to the implementation of the Council Good Food Strategy.
- 7.2. It will also help to increase the proportion of tree canopy cover within South Lanarkshire and, therefore, carbon sequestration.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. The Council has received a number of enquiries regarding whether a COVID-19 memorial would be created within South Lanarkshire. Although this project does not provide locations in every town/village it provides accessible areas across South Lanarkshire in defined areas, rather than informal memorials appearing across the Council area.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy nor recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Alistair McKinnon

Interim Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

12 January 2022

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- ◆ Improve and maintain health and increase physical activity

List of background papers

- ◆ Climate Change and Sustainability Committee 25 August 2021 – COVID-19 Memorial – Tree Planting

Contact for Further Information

If you would like further information, please contact:-

Alistair McKinnon

Head of Facilities, Waste & Grounds

Tel: 01698 454700

E-mail: alistair.mckinnon@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

District Parks

	Park	Location
1	Overtoun Park	Rutherglen
2	Cambuslang Park	Cambuslang
3	Stonefield Park	Blantyre
4	Bothwell Road	Hamilton
5	Town Centre Park	East Kilbride
6	James Hamilton Heritage	East Kilbride
7	Alexander Hamilton	Stonehouse
8	Strathaven Park	Strathaven
9	Biggar Public Park	Biggar
10	Lanark Loch	Lanark
11	Castlebank Park	Lanark

Country Parks

1	Chatelherault Country Park	Hamilton
2	Calderglen Country Park	East Kilbride