



**Friends of
Broomfield Park**

Tree Project Broomfield Park

INTRODUCTION

We all understand the importance and value of our parks to the local and wider environment, for the health and well-being of our communities and in helping ameliorate the adverse effects of climate change.

Many of the trees in Broomfield Park are reaching the end of their natural life or are subject to new pests and diseases as the climate changes. Working with the LBE Arbor Officer, our aim is to plant new trees over the next 5 years to improve biodiversity and ensure that Broomfield Park maintains its place as a green haven for all the community for years to come.

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Fallen/Dead Tree Replacement

1. Three of the mature Weeping Willows around the ponds, identified in the **Conservation Management Plan** (CMP) as important structural features have fallen in recent years. Two to be planted at the North West and South East corners at the site of the dead trees, one on the South West corner of the lower lake. To be planted by Enfield Council Arboricultural Service funded by FoBP.
2. The Avenue of Horse Chestnuts leading down from the Coronation Gates and identified in the CMP as an important structural feature has been progressively failing. As noted in the Arboricultural Assessment in the CMP almost all the Horse Chestnuts in the Park are infected with Chestnut Bleeding Canker, many have fallen and several others severely infected and exhibiting crown failure and die back. Most of the Horse Chestnuts are also infested with Leaf Miner Moth.

There is no successful model for replacing like for like as young Horse Chestnuts are more susceptible to the same problem. On researching for alternatives we considered Lime trees which will be used on the perimeter but felt for interest and biodiversity an alternative should be considered for the avenue. On researching further there are several reports of using Liquidambar Styraciflua (American Sweetgum) for avenues and the suggestion has met with general approval particularly as these trees are becoming a well-loved feature of local street planting (See Appendix 2).

The Arbor Officer recommended planting the full-size tree rather than a smaller variety such as LA Worplesdon. Mature trees to be funded and planted by FoBP.

3. Fallen Horse Chestnuts on the North East park perimeter to be replaced with Small Leaf Lime trees using a variety recommended by the Arbor Officer with smaller overall size and spread –Var. Tilia Cordata Greenspire. Six trees to be funded and planted by FoBP.
4. Oak trees on the North East border of the lower lake. Two trees have fallen, one is to be replaced by Enfield Council Arboricultural Service with an Oak as a memorial tree. The Arbor Officer will carry out a site visit to establish if a further tree could be planted at this site by FoBP.
5. A further gap on the North East edge of the upper lake could be replanted – review with Arbor Officer.
6. Dead tree stump in the green space beside the Greenery Community Café to be replaced with a specimen tree consistent with the local area. Suggested tree: Magnolia Daybreak funded and planted by FoBP.
7. Bank between the Wall and Children's playground. This currently has a row of three Eurasian Walnut trees, the trees at the north end of the row have not survived. Proposal to restore this row with three or four Walnut Trees – to consider varying the varieties with Black / English (Juglans Nigra/ Regia).

New Tree Planting

1. Native Hedgerow Planting

Since 2013 the FoBP have been planting native hedgerow whips around the perimeter of the Park as recommended in the **Conservation Management Plan** (CMP). The whips have been supplied by The Woodland Trust, The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and other donors. This is to be continued with further donations of whips and include some small trees donated by the Enfield Society Tree Nursery. This year we have done some further planting of whips along the South bank of the Wetland to extend the area from those already planted on the Wetland margin to develop the wildlife habitat.

2. Tree Planting on the Inner Perimeter

The CMP recommends improving the veteran tree stock and developing biodiversity as a defence against disease by planting different tree varieties in the inner perimeter currently composed predominantly of Holm Oak. FoBP would like to plant in the gaps in the perimeter with significant tree varieties, to be discussed and agreed with the Arbor Officer.

It is recommended in the CMP that the central grassland of the main Parkland be kept clear apart from the double Lime Avenue and some existing clumps of planting to maintain the views across the park to the Listed Wall and House remains. FoBP propose to replace one Lime tree (var. Greenspire) that has died and not been replaced. We would also restore the protective wooden barriers on the whole avenue that have fallen into a general state of disrepair.

3. New Trees in Front of the Netball Courts and MUGA

The CMP makes repeated reference to screening the 'ugly' MUGA and Netball Courts and at the same time diversifying the range of trees in the Park. The Netball League are keen to fund six trees to achieve this.

We initially suggested a row of Scarlet Oaks and this was met with enthusiasm by many people. However, the current situation with Oak Processionary Moth has led to circumstances where tree nurseries are unable to supply mature Oaks for planting in almost all varieties for perhaps five years from now. We have been able to source a supply of Hungarian Oaks from Barcham Nurseries, which will be available for planting in September 2021 (pre-order required). These are medium/large sized trees and have a good shape, an excellent Autumn colour and are suited to clay neutral/acid soil and wet soil conditions. These could be a great feature.



The Parkland Options 1-3 in the CMP illustrate some depth of trees in this area and it might be considered to add to the excellent *Gleditsia Tricanthos Inermis* that is placed just below the old croquet court.

Considerations for planting here would include:

- Distance from courts to avoid Autumn leaf drop problems
- Positioning of trees in respect to the view of the Dipali Memorial Garden

4. Trees Along the Fence Line of the Children's Playground

Suggested to plant a row of four medium trees with spread and dappled shade – e.g. *Gleditsia Tricanthos Inermis*.

5. Planting in the Gap by the Coronation Gates

Space for two or three trees to the right of the gates as you come into the Park. Suggested tree *Catalpa Aurea* – to consider other/s.

6. East Lawn

The horticultural group, led by Elizabeth Dobbie, would like to plant a small feature tree in the centre of the three, square flower beds, replacing the uncared-for shrubs and with planting around. Elizabeth is to make an application to the Parks department to consider adding two further square flower beds to return to a pattern of a period when there were five symmetrical beds here.

7. Planting the Corners of the Middle Pond

Donated trees, *Ginkgo Biloba* and an *Acer Negundo* could be placed here.

8. Planting in Front of the Toilet Block

A donated Mulberry could be planted here to balance the White Mulberry planted by Peter Brown.

Funding, Planting, Aftercare and Replacement of Failed Trees

The proposals will be fully funded by FoBP from their own funds and from funds donated specifically for tree planting in a recent spontaneous and highly effective fundraising campaign.

Planting will be carried out by FoBP volunteers to a standard allowing protection against vandalism and other adverse factors and to be approved by Arbor Officer.

Aftercare will be provided by a 'Tree Volunteer' group within FoBP and agreed with the Arbor Officer.

- Regular Spring and Summer watering (depending on prevailing weather conditions). FoBP will buy a large mobile water bowser and water by root watering tube put in place at the time of planting.
- Maintaining a grass and weed free perimeter at the tree base with regular mulching.
- Tree management and pruning in consultation with Arbor Officer.

FoBP will maintain a 'ring-fenced' fund with a minimum of £1000.00 within their accounts to provide replacement trees should there be failures over a 5-year period. This will be agreed by the Committee and minuted.

Consultation and review will continue with the LBE Arbor Officer throughout the project.

Tree Nursery

We will continue to 'grow-on' trees in our Tree Nursery in the orchard and growing space for future planting. As space is limited to do this, we hope to get Marcus Harvey's agreement to expand this into the Stable Yard on a temporary basis. Trees for planting are currently delivered to the Stable Yard, where we also store compost and mulch.

Kim Lumley
David March
Co-Chairs FoBP

13 February 2021

Appendix 1 Notes from The Conservation Management Plan (2016)

The Conservation Management Plan is a detailed document which seeks to both guide and advise on proposals for the future use of the Grade 11* House and the management of the Park. It addresses the key issues, including the significance of the remains of Broomfield House and the significance and evolution of the Park landscape. The long-term objective of the CMP is to restore the house and park to a more historically accurate appearance.

Broomfield Park is Metropolitan Open Land and is a Grade II registered park. Additionally, Broomfield Park has been added to the Heritage at Risk Register.

PARKLAND – OPTIONS 1 to 3

44. Improve the longevity of existing , veteran tree stock through new planting.

45. Diversify the age range of trees. Position to screen the ugly MUGA and contain sports courts.

57. Tree and native hedge planting along the Park perimeter. To give enclosure.

Arboricultural Assessment

1.4 Zone B – The House/Lakes/Memorial Gardens/Stable Block and Greenhouse
Horse Chestnut features heavily throughout the park and particularly in this zone where it was used as a double avenue on either side of the short canal that once linked the Park to an off-site Lake.

Weeping Willow and Alder have been used to good effect to frame the Lakes as both are water loving species.

1.5 Zone C – Open Parkland

In my opinion the best policy with this part of the site would be to continue to plant up around the periphery of the site and with the exception of recreating the avenue and odd clumps of plantings I would leave the central zones largely open and free of trees thus perpetuating the Parkland feel of this site. This would also serve to fortify and increase the screening around the periphery and improve on the sense of containment of the Park as an entity.

1.6 Tree Health Issues

Individual specimen trees can usually be protected and strategies put in place if the problems are spotted at an early stage but where you have a high number of one particular species this does not become viable as funding is unlikely to stretch to cover these issues and only the most valued specimen trees will be allocated adequate funds. This would be the case with Horse Chestnuts (of which there are a high number in this Park) where Bleeding Chestnut Canker on almost every Chestnut tree and it will for nature to take its course.



Appendix 2 Alternatives to Horse Chestnut Trees

Article in Horticulture Week

21 October 2011, by Jack Shamash

Street tree remix - alternatives to pest prone trees

Horse chestnut alternatives

Arshadi has a wide variety of trees that he currently recommends in places where he might have used horse chestnuts previously. These include walnut trees and sweet chestnut trees. He will also deploy lime trees, Norway maple and beech, although he accepts that these lack the beautiful displays of flowers that are found on the horse chestnut.

He suggests that such trees as liquid amber, tulip trees and acacias should be included in the mix. "We should have a wide palate from which we can choose," says Barrell. "If we have a wide variety of trees, then our street scene will be able to withstand new strains of disease. If we stick to a monoculture, then we could be in trouble."

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

Bleeding canker in horse chestnuts is a nationwide concern. We have been monitoring it in the borough since 2005 and have needed to remove several trees suffering from it.

The avenue of 30 horse chestnuts on Parkway have been badly affected. One tree was felled in 2006, five trees in 2011 and nine in 2013. In 2014 sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) were been planted to replace those that were removed.

[www.yorkshirepost.co.uk › news › autumn-comes-earl...](http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/autumn-comes-earl...)

Autumn comes early as new threat puts the horse-chestnut at ...

8 Oct 2010 — **Horse-chestnuts** are one of Britain's most distinctive trees, but thousands ... The worst-case scenario is that we make a decision about **replacing** them ... or possibly something like **liquid amber**, which gives nice autumn colour.