





Explanation of Proposed Tree Works at Whitworth Memorial Garden

The site at Whitworth Memorial Gardens is currently heavily wooded – the formal gardens to the west facing Market Street have been planted with formal rows of trees (mainly lime and cherry) whereas the rear of the site (to the east) is mainly self seeded tree species that have suffered because of the poor locations in which they have grown (mainly sycamore and beech with horse chestnut, ash, cherry, whitebeam, lime and willow). Many of these are growing in/around retaining walls, threatening neighbouring structures or have suffered over the years and are failing.

Within the formal gardens themselves there are approximately 40 trees which will remain untouched within this scheme.

In the informal gardens, the Tree survey has shown all the trees of significant stature (excluding shrubs and small trees) and there are 30 in total between the rear of the formal garden and the steep rock face to the east. Of these 30, the Survey highlighted several trees that are failing, dead or diseased – a total of 21. Of these, we are proposing to only fell 14. The others will be monitored to check their progress as per the advice from the Tree Surgeon.

It may still be decided in the near future that these remaining 7 trees that have been given an advisory note may have to be felled if the monitoring shows that they are still failing or at risk but this decision will be made after closer inspection and will happen on a tree by tree basis, not all at once.

It is thought that as the proportion of mature trees on site will remain high — only 20% are proposed to be felled, that the impact on any wildlife will be minimised. In addition to this, the felling and construction work would be taking place outside of the nesting season (i.e. between September and November) as the Horticultural Society who are leading on this project would like the gardens to be ready in time for Remembrance Sunday in November 2011.

Also, as part of the scheme, a comprehensive programme of replanting will be taking place to replace the trees and rhododendrons that are cleared as part of the project. The details of this replanting will be forwarded to the Planning Department at Rossendale Borough Council as soon as it has been drawn up by the Horticultural Society.

Suggested Tree and Shrub Species for Re-planting Trees

The suggested replacement tree species are smaller species than those originally growing on site to allow more light into the garden. And it is not intended to replace the same number of trees as been felled as the site was too densely wooded before. By allowing more light into the space, understorey plants can thrive.

The species chosen are mainly native or native cultivars with colourful bark, autumn colour and/or fruits to give year round interest and a colourful backdrop to the garden. It is suggested to plant standard trees in order to make the project affordable within the limited budget. Standards:

- Betula pendula 'Tristis' x 3 silver birch species
- Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea' x 1 purple beech
- Malus 'Evereste' x 1 crab apple
- Prunus sargentii x 1 flowering cherry
- Sorbus aucuparia 'Sheerwater Seedling' x 2 mountain ash