

## AGENDA ITEM 14, Enc xii)

### Paddock Wood Play Area- Bark Replenishment

#### Background

This report outlines the proposed works to the Paddock Wood area, at North Seaton, as follows;

1. To receive the quotation for replacement play bark chippings at Paddock Wood Play Area and agree to place an order for the work to be carried out.
2. To receive notice of the gift of x20 chestnut whips and seek NCC approval and support as well as meet associated costs to support the planting within the woodland near to the Play Area.

#### Project Details

##### Replacement Bark

The Paddock Wood Play Area is the only play area, under the Town Council's responsibility, that has bark as the required safety surface. The bark in the play area is replenished, on average, every two to three years dependent on need.

The park is approximately 200 metres from the nearest road on Manley View and replenishing this area with bark has been a time-consuming process for the Town Council in recent years. In 2020, after investigating a number of options, the Town Council used a particular provider. The company has an express blower system that is equipped with pneumatic equipment and a large capacity hose that is connected to their vehicle. This allows the efficient spreading of bark and in relation to Paddock Wood, reduced the need for Town Council staff to carry out the time-consuming task of both transporting and replenishing the bark.



██████████ at Paddock Wood in 2020

To replenish the play area to the required standard will require 15m<sup>3</sup> of bark. However, it must be noted that the price for this work has increased significantly since 2020. We have looked at other options for the safety surface as well as other suppliers. However, the ██████████ is the safest, most environmentally friendly, and cost-effective solution in replenishing the bark, given the location of the play area.

The total cost of the works by ██████████ - £3,745.00

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#### Chestnut Whips

A gift of x20 Chestnut whips has been offered to the Town Council, with the express wish that they are planted in Paddock Wood. The whips would be planted within existing woodland and would enhance and add to the tree provision in this area.

Advice and permissions will be sort from NCC's Tree Officer on the exact location of the planting and if agreed the Town Council would supply the respective tree guards and stakes for the whips. The Town Council's Neighbourhood Service Officers will carry out the planting.

Approximate cost of stakes & guards - £60.00

#### **Recommendations**

- To proceed with replenishment of bark chippings for Paddock Wood Play Area at a cost of £3,745.00
- To seek NCC approval to plant x20 chestnut whisp in existing woodland at Paddock Wood and meet the cost of associated tree guards and stakes at an approximate cost of £60.00.

Stephen Humphrey

**Assets & Facilities Manager**

**27 October 2023**