



<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>REQUEST FROM BALLYMONEY BRANCH OF SOROPTIMISTS TO PLANT TREES IN RIVERSIDE PARK, BALLYMONEY</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>FOR DECISION</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and enhancing our natural environment
Outcome	Our natural assets will be carefully managed
Lead Officer	Head of Estates

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	Nil cost to Council
Included in Current Year Estimates	
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

Officers were approached by the Soroptimist International Ballymoney and District Club with a request to plant 25 trees in Riverside Park, Ballymoney and to erect a commemorative plaque on a flowerbed. Council are asked to approve this request.

## **2.0 Background**

Soroptimist International, consists of five Federations including Soroptimist International of Great Britain & Ireland. It is a global volunteer movement, who work together to transform the lives of women and girls. The principles of Soroptimism are to strive for:

- The advancement of the status of women
- High ethical standards
- Human rights for all
- Equality, development and peace and
- The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace

To celebrate their centenary in 2021 and as part of a UK wide initiative, the Ballymoney & District Club wish to plant 25 trees in Riverside Park, Ballymoney. Following discussions with our Bio-Diversity Officer the following proposal is being brought to Council for approval.

- Trees / whips will be native and local provenance, and species that are wet tolerant such as birch, planted at an agreed location within the park.
- Trees /whips will be provided by the Soroptimists along with stakes & rabbit guards, and planted by the club and Conservation Volunteers
- The club will maintain the trees, eg weed around them annually until they are established, approx. 3-5years
- There will be no plaque adjacent to the tree planting, only a photo opportunity and any associated article for the planting event
- Subject to approved by Council, and prior to the event, the club will provide a copy of public liability insurance and an event / planting risk assessment, to include Covid-19 precautions
- There will be no cost to Council

The club also ask that one of the towns' flowerbeds be planted in their club colours of blue and yellow in 2021 along with a plaque provided by them celebrating their anniversary. This can be accommodated on Meetinghouse Street. Requests for commemorative flowerbeds have been accommodated regularly over many years.

### 3.0 **Recommendation**

**It is recommended** that the Environmental Services Committee approve the request by the Soroptimists International to plant 25 trees in Riverside Park, Ballymoney and for Council to plant an existing flowerbed in Club colours to celebrate the organisations centenary anniversary in 2021.