

Beechpark Tree Management Programme

➤ **Question:** What is the Motion ?

➤ **Answer:** The motion is for the members of Beechpark GC to agree to a Tree Management Plan which will include the removal of some trees (mainly hybrids) and replacing them with species which will add value in terms of the course playability, while having regard to local environmental demands.

➤ **Question:** Why the need now ?

➤ **Answer:** Just like for the rest of the course, it is good practice to have a tree management plan which will adhere to the intentions of the original course design, improve playability while at the same time add value by creating bio-diversity and environmental systems attractive to native wildlife species.

➤ **Question:** How many trees will be removed.

➤ **Answer:** This will involve mainly the removal of “artificial “ hybrids (Leylandii) and a few non-native species firs which are no longer serving a useful purpose, or are at end of life or are interfering with young deciduous trees. The plan includes a planting programme to either replace them directly as appropriate or to plant elsewhere as fill –in areas etc., The objective is the planting of trees that are native and suitable to the course.

In total over the next 2 – 3 years, the number for removal would be approximately 30 (all non- native species) but it is planned to plant equal or more than is removed over the same period.

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➤ Question: What are the **Red markings** on some of the trees?

➤ Answer: The **red dots** were purely to give a visual indication on some of the trees proposed for removal. It would be difficult to explain the position and “ what trees” so the **Red mark** was a great way of showing what was involved in the programme.

➤ Question: Is it just Leylandii and fir trees coming out ?

➤ Answer: In the main, Yes. Both these species are NOT native to Ireland but this is not the only reason.

These trees were planted in the early 80's to give quick definition to the new course because they were cheap, fast growing and provided quick definition and shelter to what was practically open fields.

Since then, regular planting by the club down the years of expensive native and non-native deciduous species, shows the true definition of the course but in its local, natural parkland appearance. Those planned to go are not natural to that environment, no longer add value, cause slow play and in some cases are actually killing the growth and development of the natural trees that the club has invested in.

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➤ Question: Do the Fir and Leylandii have any benefits ?.

➤ Answer: **Pros** – they are fast growing and evergreen.

Cons – The root structure can cause damage to under ground drains, old walls etc.

The roots do not contribute to drainage, in fact it is the opposite. These trees need very little moisture hence ever green all year round.

Slow play- if a ball enters a Leylandii “ *it doesn't give the ball back* “ because of the branch structure. Their removal will in fact help to speed up play around the course.

Playability- The branching is not conducive to low level pruning to allow for access to play or ease of course maintenance

Leylandii are artificially created trees, are sterile and do not attract birds and wildlife. They are mainly intended as inexpensive hedging /shelter.

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➤ Question: Can trees just be cut down ?.

➤ Answer: No, the course committee have engaged with the Forest Service who examine the justifications for the felling of any trees and who will only issue a Felling Licence once they are satisfied with the application. In fact, we have applied for a Felling Licence which we hope to receive soon.

➤ Question: If the motion is passed, when will the programme start?

➤ Answer: In the coming year, 2019 subject, to licence. It will begin with the removal of any identified species that are showing signs of disease, damaged limbs or the stunting of the growth of deciduous trees.

It will continue with the planting of new native species in areas that need population and areas where non – native species have been removed if space for planting allows.



Why plant native species of trees ?

What else is in the Tree Management Plan ?

- ▶ **Native:** They are best at attracting local wildlife including birds and animals and help create bio-diversity systems essential for the local environment.
- ▶ **Did you know** that the following native species are already on our course ? Oak, Ash, Alder, Aspen, Birch, Hawthorn , Holly, Rowan, Scots Pine, Willow etc and non-native such as Beech, Lime, Chestnut, Eucalyptus etc
- ▶ **Without which** we would not have attracted Deer, Badger, Foxes, rabbits together with a wide range of birdlife to our course lands.
- ▶ **The plan also includes** : An Inventory to identify all trees on site to assist in tree management going forward ; consideration in establishing a small set -aside area to act as a nursery for establishing trees for cost effectiveness; A tree maintenance programme to monitor health, improve playability and to improve the cost effectiveness of overall course maintenance; Continue in the bio-diversity programme on-site as part of our club's contribution towards the environment.