

**Bromsgrove High Street – Replacement Tree Planting Schedule**  
**December 2011**

**General concept**

32 existing trees will be removed to facilitate the regeneration of Bromsgrove High Street. In replacement for these, an equal number of new trees will be required within the immediate area of the High Street to comply with Council and National policies and ensure that there is no net loss of trees within the Conservation Area.

While providing a number of benefits such as improved air quality, visual and acoustic screening and aesthetic value, a number of conflicts have resulted around the existing High Street trees – most of which would appear to be as a result of unsuitable siting and species selection. The proposed replacement planting scheme aims to avoid or reduce such future conflicts through a combination of improved site selection, improved species selection and correct planting method.

**Specific Principles**

- A reduction of the number of trees in the High Street itself from 32 to 22 with the remaining 10 trees located in suitable sites immediately adjacent and on the approaches to the High Street where they will still benefit visitors and local residents and enhance the town centre.
- Placing the trees in small linear groups to create green 'oases' in suitable locations and an avenue effect for greater aesthetic visual impact.
- Siting of groups (as detailed below) in locations to benefit the heritage and aesthetic values of the High Street by exposing and 'framing' Listed Buildings and others which make a positive visual contribution and screening those of negative visual contribution.
- Siting of groups in line with each other along the length of the High Street from Housman Square to provide improved line of site for both aesthetic value and improved CCTV coverage.
- Siting of groups to avoid underground utility services and so avoid future conflicts and damage to trees from utility works.
- Planting of individual trees within root boxes to avoid shallow surface rooting and future damage to both paving and roots.
- Spacing between individual trees to allow for future growth without forming a complete screen and also allow siting of other activities and features such as market stalls and street theatre where desirable.
- The use of 'tree seats' around each tree to provide seating with minimal street 'clutter' and provide protection to the base and trunk of the trees.
- The incorporation of up-lighting beneath trees to enhance visual amenity while not compromising the integrity of root boxes.
- Species selection of narrow-crowned (fastigate) Hornbeam trees with minimum 2m clear stem to reduce future issues of obstruction of CCTV sight-lines and encroachment of adjacent buildings. Hornbeam is also suitable for the site environment being hardy and tolerant of winter salt and less prone to disease or decay with attractive foliage and limited maximum size and spread. Hornbeam usually retains most of its leaves over Winter and so provides visual amenity for longer and contributes substantially less to problems of slippery pavements and blocked drains.



Mature narrow-crowned Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulinus* 'fastigiata')

**Replacement Planting Groups** (approximate positions as shown on attached plan)

Group A – 7x Hornbeam fronting Golden Cross Hotel from Worcester Street to New Road –

Group B – 3x Hornbeam fronting WHSmith to Waterstones .

Group C – 4x Hornbeam fronting Carphone Warehouse to Julian Graves

Group D – 3x Hornbeam along Mill Lane

Group E – 4x Hornbeam fronting Card Party to Shipleys Amusement Arcade

Group F – 4x Hornbeam fronting Fotofactory to Domino Pizza

Group G – 5x Limes at Crown Close between Burma Star Memorial and main road.

Group H – 2x Hornbeam along pedestrianised part of Chapel Street

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**December 2011**