

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions asked at Council
7 December 2023**

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| <p>1</p> | <p>Councillor Wendy Fitzgerald</p> <p>In relation to Minute 78 – Councillors' Questions - Question 2. Councillor E W Fitzgerald asked:</p> <p>1) Can I have a yes or a no response to my written question.</p> <p>2) Where are the locations identified for tree planting following the Tree Canopy Survey.</p> <p>Joint Response of the Cabinet Members for Corporate Services & Performance and Community (Services)</p> <p>1) There is not a straightforward Yes or No answer to the question: More trees die, fall, become dangerous or are removed from Council land than are planted. Tree loss/gain is not just a Council issue/responsibility however and, working in collaboration with other responsible authorities, landowners, farmers, householders, etc, there is scope to plant more trees across Swansea than are lost.</p> <p>2) The Tree Canopy Survey identifies potential opportunities for tree planting in every ward of the County. It is not however a site-specific planting map. At every location where opportunities have been identified before any planting could be considered there would need to be further fine-grain analysis including detailed site assessment to determine ground suitability, together with local public consultation and a determination of the purpose for the planting, e.g., to alleviate surface water run-off/flood risk, reduce air pollution, reduce heat island effect, etc. which would help determine which type of tree should be planted, i.e. right tree in the right place. This would also all be subject to future maintenance funding/resource availability.</p> <p>The Survey is essentially a tool to help inform corporate strategies and is in the form of a GIS based interactive map. A decision has yet to be made whether to make this information public, and there is potential for it to generate misunderstanding that there could be tree planting undertaken at all the opportunity locations which is not the case. If Members wish to learn what potential tree planting opportunities exist within their wards this information can be provided by the Nature Conservation Team nature.conservation@swansea.gov.uk</p> |
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