

TORBAY COUNCIL

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY OFFICER IN CONSULTATION WITH
EXECUTIVE MEMBER
DIRECTORS DECISION No. 33/2014**

The following decision has been made by Charles Uzzell, Director of Place in consultation with the Executive Lead for Transport, Cllr Robert Excell.

Decision:

Petition requesting that additional trees be planted in Mincent Hill, Torquay.

- No additional trees will be planted at this time, however Council officers will look for future funding opportunities for a tree planting scheme. Alternatively the council would accept a community funded scheme.

The decision was made for the following reasons:-

The area of Mincent Hill has a number of large grass verges that would accommodate additional trees. Records show one tree has been lost in the last 5 years due to disease.

The Council has a significant number of trees to maintain. The total number is estimated at over 17,000. The Council has a significant backlog of works that are required to these trees and are still receiving numerous requests from residents for works to be carried out to existing trees. Therefore, at this time all of the council's budget is being targeted at maintaining the existing asset. No budget exists for additional planting within the tree revenue budget.

Sometimes tree planting grants are made available from various funding bodies and if they are available in the future, Mincent Hill will be considered for an application. Alternatively, if the community choose to fund new trees, the Council would consider this option and maintain the trees in the future.

In reaching this decision, the following issues and alternative options were considered:-

- To plant new trees, no budget exists at this time.
- Not to plant new trees
- Community funded scheme – this would be possible if the community wanted to fund a tree.

The following officers of the Council, individuals and organisations were consulted:-

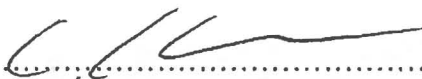
- Cllr Robert Excell
- Group Service Manager (Streetscene & Place)
- Principal Natural Environment Officer

The following background papers were used in considering the issue

Torbay Council's Tree and Woodland Framework

Was any declaration of interest made in connection with this issue?

No

Signed:  (officer)

Dated: 6/1/15

Signed:  (portfolio holder)

Dated: 14-1-15