

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

**TREE PLANTING AND BIODIVERSITY SITE ABOVE CARDEN PARK**

**CONSERVATIVE GROUP**

This Committee agrees to delegate authority to the Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture to:-

1. Produce plans and details to enable and subsequently engage in local public consultation, proposals that include the planting of 8,000 trees, the extension of controlled grazing of chalk grassland and the creation of bee banks and biodiversity on the slopes above Carden Park.
2. Subject to the outcome of the public consultation and agreement of Patcham Ward councillors, procure and implement the necessary works and planting to deliver the scheme.

This Committee further agrees that points 1 and 2 to be carried out such that planting will commence and be complete within the 20/21 planting season.

Proposed by: Cllr. Lee Wares

Seconded by: Cllr. Vanessa Brown

Supporting information

Patcham Ward councillors have consulted with Cityparks and conservation officers and officers have already produced a preliminary scheme. This is detailed in the letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 from Cllr. Lee Wares. The scheme has been welcomed by the Administration that also notes officers have already confirmed that the proposed location is suitable for the scheme. This is detailed in the Administration's letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.

Covid-19 has it seems, impacted on the Administration's ability to consider other sites across the city and produce a report for ETS Committee on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020. With other sites not yet being considered and no report being presented to ETS, the slope above Carden Park is the only scheme of this type under consideration and that has already been considered by officers, agreed in principle by officers and the Administration and been welcomed by residents and others with a keen interest to increase biodiversity and tackle climate change. Without a decision being taken in June 2020 to agree to this scheme, it will not be possible to complete the work in the 2020/21 planting season. The Administration have made carbon neutrality by 2030 a key priority and have been formally aware of these proposals since February 2020. A delay now will be a delay in tackling climate change and demonstrate a lack in seriousness to overcome the emergency.

