

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Members' Briefing Pack

12 December 2024



Title	<i>Tiny Forest – Additional proposed site</i>
Purpose of the report	To note
Report Author	<i>Biodiversity Officer</i>
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	<i>No</i>
Exemption Reason	<i>n/a</i>
Corporate Priority	Community Environment Resilience
Recommendations	Note that the LATF funding for Tiny Forest was unsuccessful and the project has ended. No additional site has been proposed.
Reason for Recommendation	<i>n/a</i>

1. Summary of the report

What is the situation	Why we want to do something
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In June 2024, the Environment and Sustainability Committee approved the recommendation for officers to 1) submit a funding bid to the Local authority Treescapes Fund (LATF) for one or more Tiny Forests and 2) to delegate authority to the Head of Corporate Governance to enter a contract with Earthwatch to deliver the Tiny Forest project (Refer to Appendix A). The funding application to the LATF was unsuccessful and the project has ended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>n/a</i>

This is what we want to do about it	These are the next steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers to consider implementing Tiny Forests for the next planting season (24-25) subject to identifying suitable locations and funding opportunities.

1.1 This report seeks to inform Committee that LATF funding for Tiny Forest has been unsuccessful and approval is no longer required for an additional site.

2. Key issues

2.1 The results of the funding bid were received in October 2024. The funding was unsuccessful, so officers are no longer identifying or seeking approval for sites for the Tiny Forests.

2.2 Officers may consider creating Tiny Forests in the future, dependent on identifying suitable funding opportunities and sites.

2.3 One of the sites which was considered for Tiny Forest was located on Thames Water-owned land in Staines. The Council intended to work in partnership with Thames Water to deliver this project. Since the result of the funding, Thames Water has secured alternative corporate funding for their site to proceed and will be working with Earthwatch to plant a Tiny Forest in winter 2024-2025. This project will be open to Spelthorne residents to visit and volunteer at. It will also provide a learning opportunity for the Council to observe as they consider future opportunities to implement Tiny Forests.

3. Options analysis and proposal

n/a

4. Financial management comments

4.1 *n/a*

5. Risk management comments

n/a

6. Procurement comments

6.1 *n/a*

7. Legal comments

7.1 *n/a*

8. Other considerations

8.1 *n/a*

9. Equality and Diversity

10. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

10.1 *n/a*

11. Timetable for implementation

11.1 *n/a*

12. Contact

12.1 *Anna Fjortoft, Biodiversity Officer*

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices: There are none.