HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Horsham District Council – Planning Dept
LOCATION:	Roundstone Park Worthing Road Southwater West Sussex
DESCRIPTION:	Discharge S106 obligation (DC/22/0096) relating to Schedule 2, Part 5 in relation to the submission of the Tree Plan
REFERENCE:	S106/24/0011
RECOMMENDATION:	Advice
SUMMARY OF COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATION: **It is positive to see that 34 new trees are proposed to be planted within Rayland's County Park in order to discharge the S106 obligation for DC/22/0096. Initial observations in main comments.**	

MAIN COMMENTS:

The selected trees are relatively small fruit-bearing species - Malus spp, Prunus cerasifera, etc. Except for the Birch, Field Maple and Beech.

Due to planning density and proximity of the trees to the caravans, the residents may have concerns with seasonal, leaf and fruit drop, which could be deemed to be a nuisance. Which, in turn, may lead to pressure to remove them, post-planting. To ensure their long-term retention, consideration could be given to making use of the more open areas of the site, such as the area west of Nos.114 to 118, and that in the centre of the site where the Beech and Field maple are proposed to be planted.

Another observation is with the use of Birch. It has become more apparent in recent years, that young and even mature trees of this species are struggling with the hotter weather we are experiencing during the spring/summer months; when they are located in open areas, without the benefit of additional mature tree coverage. In this regard, consideration should be given to selecting a more exotic species that can tolerate the more extreme weather we are likely to experience in the years ahead, such as Robinia pseudoacacia, Gleditsia triacanthos, or Ginkgo biloba.

It would also be beneficial if the application were supported by an aftercare/long-term management plan for how the trees will be managed after planting. While is always good to see new trees planted, without an appropriate aftercare plan in place there is a high possibility that the trees will not establish well thus leading to the risk of them being lost within a few seasons after planting.

ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS: n/a

NAME:	Andy Bush Arboricultural Officer
DEPARTMENT:	Strategic Planning (Specialist Team)
DATE:	09/08/2024