



Report to Council — Platinum Wood vegetation update

Background: Platinum Wood has remained unusually green despite several weeks without rain. Open areas have not been irrigated; routine management focused on removing thatch (old cuttings) to reduce fire risk and aid turf recovery.

Why the grass greened quickly

- Soil depth, type and nutrient status supported moisture retention and rapid recovery.
- Predominant grass species have deeper root systems than expected.
- Low soil compaction in many areas allowed rainfall to infiltrate more deeply.
- Grass had previously been cut short, promoting rapid green-up from surviving crowns.

Volunteer tree response

- Species performance: oaks, hawthorns and black poplars established strong taproots and coped well; Beech, some Acers and Silver Birch struggled.
- Water sourcing: a generously donated water butt and harvested local sources were used — no mains water on site.
- Volunteer actions: volunteers audited young trees by species and establishment status and were assigned specific trees needing attention.
- Watering protocol: applied late afternoon/early evening and topped up the following morning where required.

Outcome

- Based on field estimates, without intervention losses could have been 30–40 trees; actual losses were fewer than six.

Recommendation

- Continue targeted volunteer audits and watering during dry periods, maintain thatch management to reduce fire risk, and monitor species-specific establishment to prioritise future planting and support.

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