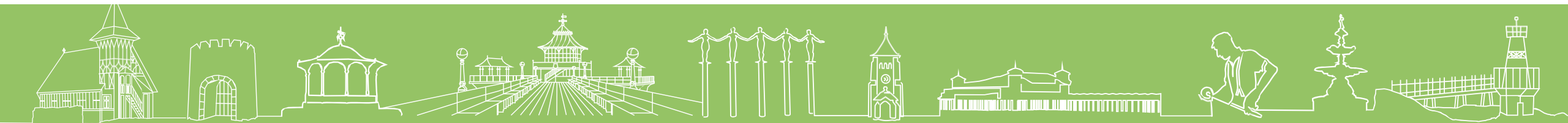# Place Policy & Scrutiny Panel

Appendix A: Ash Dieback Update – 8th March 2023
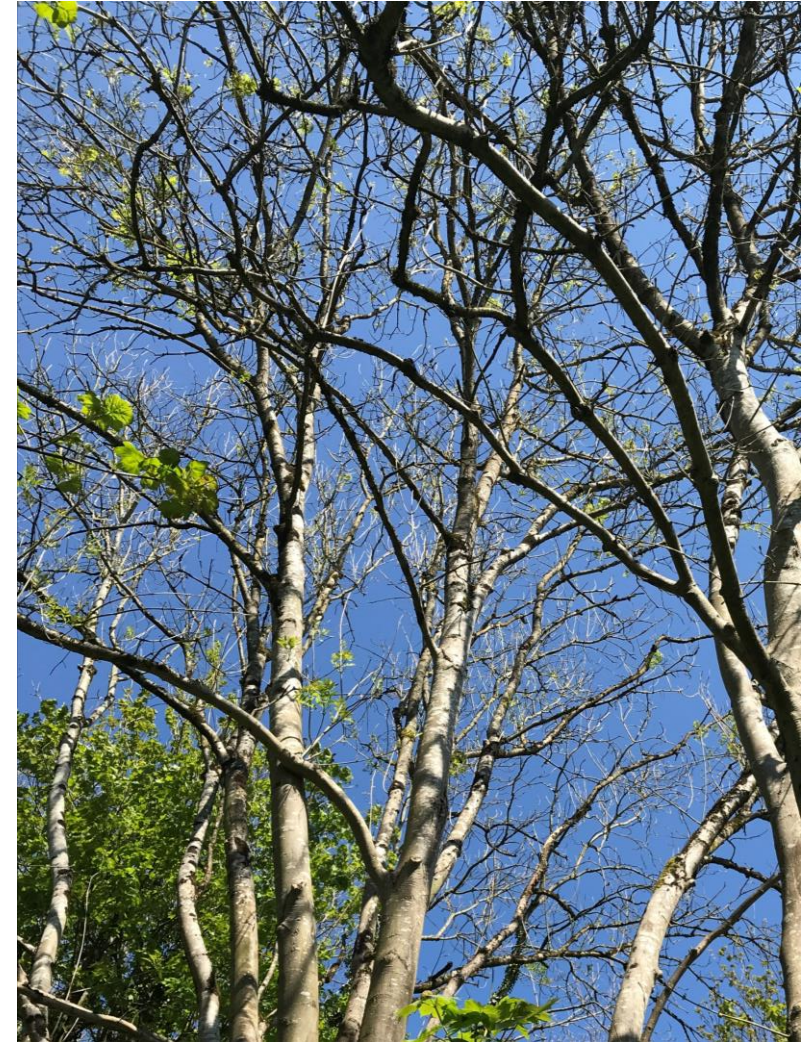
Context

Credit: Forest Research

Ash Dieback (ADB) is highly destructive disease caused by a fungus that causes ~90% of infected trees to die.

The symptoms are really only visible in summer when the trees are in leaf.

This is the time to survey to update our understanding of the rate of disease progression.

Recap on Ash Dieback

Category % of healthy crown remaining at time of inspection	Number of Trees based on proactive survey information in TRMP and Highways
Class 1 – 100-76% healthy crown remaining.	Approx. 7000
Class 2 – 75-51% healthy crown remaining	Approx. 2000
Class 3 – 50-26% healthy crown remaining	Approx. 500
Class 4 – 25-0% healthy crown remaining	Approx. 300

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Finances

Year	Investment	Achievements
2021-22	£100K	Survey and removal of earliest infected trees
2022-23	£250K	Introduction of a dedicated, 5-day-a-week Ash Dieback team
2022-23	£115K	Additional funding to cover increased numbers of diseased trees, particularly along the high speed roads where greater traffic management and machinery costs
2023-24	£620K	Increased funding in recognition of the increased incidence of diseased trees
2024-25	£TBC	This will be dependent on the progression of the disease

Ash Dieback in 2023-24

- For 2023/24 we predict that the disease will advance more quickly than anticipated, further causing potentially a rapid decline in our ash trees

- Based on the costs for 2022-23 we estimated a requirement of £620K

- We will re-survey from May 2023

- At the moment we are planning for 20 schemes in 2023-24. These are still in the planning phase and will be dependent on the findings of the summer survey which may prioritise new locations

- Predicting what will happen in 2024-25 will not be possible until after the results of the new survey

- Generally the public have been receptive and accepting of the need to fell the trees

North Somerset Council

Highlights from 2022-23

Any questions?