

**The Chairman and Members of
North West Area Committee.**

Meeting: 15th February 2022

Item No: 5

St Canice's Graveyard - Tree & Vegetation work

Introduction

The Parks Division CRES has appointed specialist consultants to carry out targeted tree works and vegetation removal at St Canice's Graveyard, Finglas. The works are intended to take place prior to the nesting season 1 March 2022. The works are designed to assist in the management of the site's built, archaeological and ecological heritage. The nature and extent of the proposed works are as previously outlined in the December 2021 NWAC report.

Conservation Management Plan:

The proposed works are part of the overall conservation project for the site, which will follow the recommendations of the new Conservation Management Plan. The works are proposed in the context of a tree survey and the Conservation Management Plan for the site. The research and preparation of the plan was delivered with support from the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) in 2021. This plan will be available for circulation in March and will be presented at a future NWAC meeting.

Scope:

The scope of the proposed tree cutting and vegetation removal works has been determined by a specialist team comprising Dublin City Council City Archaeologist, Tree Officer and Project Landscape Architect, in consultation with the conservation and ecological consultants for the site. The removal of vegetation, green waste and tree cutting will enable the conservation consultant to examine the masonry monuments and identify what repairs are required and will inform a CMF 2022 grant application for conservation work at the graveyard.

Contractors:

The proposed tree works and vegetation works will be undertaken by two specialist contractors: Twin Oaks and Stone Clean, which both have demonstrable experience of similar works at sensitive historic graveyards and sites.

Time Period:

The works are expected to be carried out in February, before nesting season. The proposed ivy trimming works will focus on the site boundary, around the Church Street gate piers and wall. The contractor will commence on site week starting 14/02/22 and complete works by 28/02/22. The tree works will take 3 weeks, within the same period (NB this is subject to the availability of the contractor). The proposed tree works are in accordance with the recommendations of the recent consultant's tree survey.

Access:

The contractors will access and leave the graveyard site through the Church Street gate. The reason for using Church Street for access and removal of material is to minimise risk to the mortuary monuments, and to avoid working in proximity to the regionally-significant high cross, which stands close to the Barrack Lane entrance.

Communications:

The Conservation Management Plan Steering Group will update key stakeholders via the Area Office, through Social Media and through updates at subsequent Area Committee meetings. The DCC contacts are Christina Todd, Ludovic Beaumont (Parks CRES); Ruth Johnson (Archaeology Section); Larry Dooley (Area Office).