



VENTNOR PARK – BLACK POPLAR TREE

ENVIRONMENT AND
TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

PAPER A

8 JULY 2024

1) BACKGROUND

a) A request has been received from Mark Simmons, National Landscape Farm Adviser, Isle of Wight National Landscape, regarding the Black Poplar Tree within the park alongside Flowers Brook.

b) The request is as follows:

The Black Poplar within the park alongside Flowers Brook might be suitable to provide cuttings which would then be propagated at the Botanic Park. The aim of the project is to grow up a number of trees which can then be planted out over the Island. There are currently no more than three Island trees thought to be genuine Black Poplars (i.e. not hybrids) and these are all male. I also hope to obtain cuttings for propagation from a female tree in south Hampshire. This will enable cross pollination and the natural regeneration of trees with genetic diversity.

When was tree surgery last carried out on the tree?

Would you be happy to have the tree's genetics tested to verify it is not a hybrid? If there are already records of the test and the clone type identified, that would be helpful to know.

Would it be okay to take cuttings in the late autumn/winter?

c) There are no records on the VTC system as to tree surgery or genetics testing for the Black Poplar tree.

2) RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

Agrees to the proposal from Matt Simmons to test the genetics of the Black Poplar Tree and take cuttings in the late autumn/winter.