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| Date received:  | 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2025                                      |
| Date responded: | 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2025                                     |
| Subject:        | Removal of trees located between Ballanard Field and Baldwin Road |

Question:

**“With reference to your application to remove 39 trees in Ballanard Field, and your public statement in response to the Manx Radio news article, can you confirm the following:**

**How many visits were made by Douglas City Council staff or a contractor engaged/employed for this purpose, to monitor or maintain the trees in Ballanard Field between 01.01.2024 and 31.12.2024. What steps were taken to protect the tree roots during this period?**

**How many visits were made by Douglas City Council staff or a contractor engaged/employed for this purpose, to monitor or maintain the trees in Ballanard Field between 01.01.2025 and 30.09.2025? What steps were taken to protect the tree roots during this period?”**

Response:

In response to part one of your request, the Council confirms that during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, there were no site visits undertaken in relation to the trees located behind Council owned bungalows on Baldwin Road, Willaston.

In response to part two of your request the Council confirms that the following site visits were undertaken during the period beginning 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 and ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

1. 30.01.2025 – Douglas City Council attend site to remove fallen trees.
2. 04.02.2025 – Meeting between Douglas City Council and the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA) on site to discuss options.
3. 11.02.2025 – Further meeting at Ballaughton Nursery between Douglas City Council and DEFA to discuss the way forward.
4. 06.05.2025 – Meeting on site between Douglas City Council and DEFA.
5. 09.07.2025 – Meeting between Douglas City Council and DEFA at DEFA headquarters to discuss felling application.
6. 30.07.2025 & 25.08.2025 Tree Survey Inspections by Manx Roots on behalf of Douglas City Council.

The trees located between Ballanard Field and Baldwin Road are situated within an established grassed area with no vehicle access and very limited foot traffic. As there is no activity in this area that would pose a risk to the tree roots, no protective measures or maintenance were required at this time.

On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025 during Storm Eowyn, one tree and parts of another tree penetrated the roofs of two Council owned bungalows in Baldwin Road. The situation posed a significant risk to life and resulted in extensive damage. The tree line in question consists predominantly of mature conifers and pines, species which are naturally shallow-rooted and particularly susceptible to windthrow. Given their maturity, the increased exposure of the remaining trees and the potential risks the Council have sought a felling and replanting license.

The application was submitted by Douglas City Council to the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025. This decision was made following consultation with an independent arboricultural consultant and DEFA.

The Council intends to replant on the same site using extra-heavy standard deciduous trees, which are generally deeper rooted and more stable in such exposed conditions.