

Tree Warden's Report on Tree Planting to Parish Council Meeting 13 April 2021.

At the March meeting, it was agreed that Julian Richards, Cliff Marchant and I would meet on the Jubilee Field to examine the plan from 2014 to plant 62 trees there. We haven't met as of today's date, but will try to do so before the April meeting.

I mentioned at the March meeting that I still feel that it's worthwhile the Council following up on schemes I've already raised at meetings: Memorial Gardens/Roots to Remembrance, Orchard Fund, Branching Out Scheme, and to establish what Local authority or other funding may be available, and which if any the Council may wish to apply for.

I also mentioned at the March meeting that I was studying the Government's proposed 'Environmental Land Management Scheme. There are apparently three main aspects:

- Sustainable Farming Incentive
- Local Nature Recovery
- Landscape Recovery

The first two appear not to involve Parish Councils as they specifically apply to farmers, but the third aspect, Landscape Recovery, 'will support landscape and ecosystem recovery through long-term projects, such as:

- restoring wilder landscapes in places where it's appropriate
- **large-scale tree planting**
- peatland and salt marsh restoration'.

The scheme will begin piloting around 10 projects in 2022, and launch in 2024', according to the Government's website. What isn't clear is if this will include landowners in general and not just farmers, and I have no information yet via the Tree Council, particularly about how it will be launched in 2024 and how the 10 projects will be selected.

Further to my report to the March 2021 Parish Council meeting, as of today I have not received the April report from The Tree Council, so cannot report on any new tree-planting initiatives from them.

Since the last meeting I have been in touch with the other sponsors of tree-planting schemes that may be available from other organisations: (Woodland Trust; Wildlife Trust; RHS/Wakehurst Place; DEFRA;etc, but have had no details yet. Any such schemes would be with a view to planting in Autumn this year (2021), so in a sense there's no great rush.

Woodland Trust website indicates that there may be a 'Free Trees for Schools and Communities' in the autumn this year (2021) - and it specifically says that 'Communities' *would* include Parish Councils. It's interesting to note that apparently last year it sent out a total of just over one million trees. Despite Covid, it had more applications for spring 2021 trees than for the previous year and it is due to send out close to half a million saplings. In December the trust was seeing between 5,000 and 10,000 trees being applied for daily; the average is 4,000 a day. So, it *can* be done!

In a previous report I mentioned a planting initiative from eForests, but their website seems to imply that their free trees would only be supplied for sites with genuine public access, so would not be available to the private landowners that we have been contacting.

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I've also asked WDC about any 'Tree and Hedgerow Strategy' that they may have, but no response so far. Para 14.16 of the WDC 'Local Development Framework' says this:

'Opportunities may exist to restore and expand Wealden's woodland. Furthermore, opportunities may exist to increase the number of trees located within Wealden's more built up areas. Both new trees and woodland should be located to maximise the contribution that they can make to climate change adaptation and to the strengthening of the green infrastructure network.'

I'm currently trying to find out what this actually means in practice.

Andy Barnes,
PCTW.

1st April 2021