

## **Tree Warden's Report on Tree Planting to Parish Council Meeting 9 March 2021.**

Further to my report to the February 2021 Parish Council meeting, as of today I have had three responses from local landowners who are interested in the possible planting schemes on their land. I have let them know that at the moment we're having a look at all the tree-planting schemes that may be available from various organisations: the Tree Council; Woodland Trust; etc, etc. These would be with a view to planting in Autumn this year (2021), as all the schemes for this planting season seem to be used up. When we do get some idea of future schemes, and the tree species involved, then we'll be able to assess each individual landowners land and space, to see which species would be appropriate.

I 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.

And I still think it's worth finding out about WDC's Tree and Hedgerow Strategy for Wealden, and establishing a local inventory of land and existing trees.

As regards the Orchard scheme, I have yet to contact MOSAG about this, but will do soon and may be able to report at the March meeting.

And as regards the previous tree planting scheme planned for the Jubilee Field, I have yet to be able to forward it to members of the Council: it was in the form of a hand-written sketch on a A2-size plan of the field, supplied by the late Ray Strong, and I have yet to find a way of reproducing it online. Suffice to say for now, it included: four Common Alder; four Hornbeam; four White Willow; 20 Silver Birch; nine Aspen; two Pedunculate Oak; one Beech; one Purple Beech; one Horse Chestnut; three Small-leaved Lime; five Mountain Ash; five Bird Cherry - one tree for every life lost in the Parish during the two wars, and all would have been supplied free of charge by the Woodland Trust via English Woodlands.

The plan was to have been:

- a) in front of the stream line between the right-hand edge of the pond and the north-west boundary with Hoad's Wood: four each of Alder, Hornbeam and Willow (12 trees, 9m spacing).
  - b) around the BMX track: a copse of 20 Birch (20 trees, 4m spacing).
  - c) around the front edge of the pond: nine Aspen (9 trees, 5m spacing).
  - d) along the south-east boundary, between the end of the neighbour's garden and the pond: two Oak, three Horse Chestnut (five trees, 9m spacing).
  - e) along the north-west boundary: no planting. (It's already planted!)
  - f) between the fenced play area and the start of the boundary fencing at the rear of the neighbour's garden: a stand of two Rowan, three Bird Cherry and one Small Leaved Lime (six trees, 7m spacing).
  - g) in an arc from the start of the boundary fencing at the rear of the neighbour's garden, leaving a wide access track between the new planting and the existing hedge/fence: eight Small Leaved Lime (eight trees, 10m spacing).
  - h) in the top right hand corner: one Beech.
  - j) in the front right-hand corner: one Copper Beech.
- Total: 62 trees.

Continued.....

Since the last meeting I received via your Clerk an interesting initiative from Eforests, who apparently supply free trees for community woodlands, nature reserves, etc. They apparently work with lots of wildlife trusts, community woodlands and community farms around the UK, supplying them with free trees for their nature reserves, rewilding projects, etc.

They generally supply a minimum of 200 trees for projects but we can be fairly flexible. Their order form can be found here

<https://www.eforests.co.uk/FreeTrees>

and their criteria for supplying the trees are at the top of the application form.

While they prefer to work with nature reserves or community woodlands or community farms, they can possibly supply trees for private landowners that we work with too. Or any other community projects that we are aware of.

I hope to be able to contact them for more information, and report to the March meeting.

The March Newsletter from the Tree Council contained no new initiatives that I think would be suitable for Chiddingly.

I am currently studying a summary of the analysis of responses the government's proposed Environmental Land Management Scheme, which will replace the existing agricultural payments, and will apparently have far-reaching impacts for trees and hedgerows, It's quite a chunky document and I hope to be able to report on it to the April meeting.

That's all for this month!

Andy Barnes,  
Parish Council Tree Warden.

1st March 2021