

## Parish tree planting plan

Context - The UK government advisory body, The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) has stated that to meet carbon net zero goals by 2050 using their proposed mix of measures, the current rate of annual tree planting needs to increase to 20k hectares of new woodland per year from 2020 to 2030. Although a tad simplistic, one could take a literal interpretation of the required new planting by sharing it across the area of the country as a whole - for an area the size of the parish (roughly 860 hectares) this equates to roughly 1100 new trees per year (taking a medium recommended density of 1600 trees per hectare of woodland) - or roughly 1.4 acres per year. While it is very unlikely we would be able to find an area to plant uninterrupted woodland at this scale, it's a useful exercise for determining an ideal objective to work towards.

Proposed actions (with which we are seeking any possible assistance from Parish) -

- Advise on most appropriate contacts at Suffolk County Council to pursue (to seek permission / negotiation to plant on suitable highway verges, source information on current land ownership to plan approach to landowners).
- Any assistance with advising on / help establishing contact with prospective landowners (large and small) to approach.
- Help formalising and promoting a plan, to aid sourcing volunteers (for planting and ongoing maintenance) and willing landowners to give permission for planting.

Proposed considerations of plan -

While significant tracts of suitable land might be found, it is more likely that opportunities will take the form of smaller marginal areas, boundaries and verges, where restoring hedgerow and planting occasional or small groups of standing trees may be suitable.

The planting mix should include traditional English woodland varieties, with consideration to include drought-tolerant and resilient species and fruit-bearing hedging and trees, to provide additional sources of food for wild animals and residents of the Parish alike.

The primary source for trees and planting materials would be expected to be the Woodland Trust - though a small budget may be required for petty work-party costs.

The plan should prioritise planting on sites that;

- Create wind breaks, sun shade; to protect roads from drifting snow and arrest top soil erosion, create shade on roads from blinding bright / low winter sun, reduce cross-winds.
- Mitigate flooding; reduce surface run-off, slow floods and soak up sitting water, reduce damage to roads.
- Help connect pre-existing areas of woodland and wild growth; To encourage wildlife, especially birds and vital insect predators and pollinators in current decline
- Will allow some years of uninterrupted fruiting and flowering; By allowing trees and hedges to fruit and flower they provide a greater abundance of food to maintain populations of wildlife and promote biodiversity.