

Tree Inspection Report for Estates Meeting on 1st September 2022

The Arboriculturalist from Acacia Trees visited on 15th July and carried out a thorough inspection of Parish trees. The resulting report found that no urgent work was needed but removal of deadwood and some low hanging branches, particularly in the skate park and playground areas, was recommended within the next six months. There has been no further inspection since that date.

Planting of trees for Queens Green Jubilee

The Chairperson of the Suffolk Tree Warden Network met the Clerk and me on 29th July and we looked at the suggested planting areas.

70 trees on the banks of the playing fields. Recommendations were as follows

- i) Saplings can not just be planted. To guarantee success a one metre square step needs to be cut midway down the bank and the soil that is removed should be heaped at lower edge to stop water run-off.
- ii) Once the saplings have been planted, and well watered, the one metre square should be mulched with several inches of wood chips (or similar)
- iii) For the first two, maybe three summer seasons, there will be a need for regular watering, at least weekly.
- iv) There is sufficient space on the two banks (approximately 250 metres in length) for 70, or less, trees

If we are not too fussy about tree species the saplings, guards and stakes can be provided free.

All this seems somewhat daunting but the steps could be cut with the help of the local gravedigger, the mulch could be provided by a local tree surgeon, and a bowser could be supplied by a local farmer; but that is a lot of 'coulds'. No doubt the gravedigger would make a considerable charge; other costs would depend on the generosity of the tree surgeon and farmer. If we had to pay commercial rates for everything costs would be substantial.

Alternative possible sites

The cemetery. An easier option is the planting of a group of 7 blossom trees (e.g. flowering cherry) in the memorial section of the Cemetery. There would be no need for use of digger and a supply of water is nearby.

In fill of gaps in the tree lines on the edges of playing fields There is sufficient space for 7 trees. No digger work would be required but the trees would not be so obvious as commemorative plantings and would soon be lost.

A spread of 7 trees across Attleton, Genesis and Coltsfoot Greens. As above, the trees would soon be lost.

There may be other options but these are the favoured suggestions.

The next move is for Councillors to decide how much expenditure is justified for Wickhambrook to take part in the Queens Green Canopy but a decision and a start needs to be made before the end of 2022.

Roger Medley 20.8.22