

Meeting	Parks and Open Spaces Committee
Date	5 th March 2024
Report Title	Community Pocket Woodlands
Agenda Reference	11
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Community Pocket Woodland

The first phase of the Community Pocket Woodland initiative was due to be planted today 5th March 2024 on the open space between Torun Way North and Grace Walk. It was hoped that Orchid Vale school would attend along with some members of the public to assist in the planting project. A verbal update on this will be presented during the meeting.

This site was originally going to be a Tiny Forest, project managed by Earthwatch, but has since changed to a Community Pocket Woodland as part of the Trees for Climate project.

The planting has been organised by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT), who is working in partnership with the Great Western Community Forest. 25 standard trees will be planted.

A Community Pocket orchard has been created by planting 18 fruit trees. These will make the site a destination point in spring to see the blossom, and later in the year to harvest the fruit.

Six standard native broadleaved trees will be planted to enhance the developer's planting that took place on the site 25 years ago. The tree species have been chosen to add biodiversity and interest to the site, as well as attract wildlife and people.

To the West of the site a native species hedgerow will be planted between the permissive bridleway marker posts and the open space, reducing any potential hazard caused by falling from the installed anti newt kerb edge. The hedgerow will be maintained as a narrow band, no more than 1.3 meters in height.

On the site there is an established pond and WWT are to conduct a survey of the pond and record the anticipated Great Crested Newt population.

The first five years maintenance of the woodland will be carried out jointly by WWT and HWPC. This will be funded by the Trees for Climate grant.

It is the intention that another Community Pocket Woodland will be created next winter on the Heaton Close open space site.