

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	10th August 2021
Report Title	Recommendations From Trees, Wildflower, Bulbs Working Party
Authors	Councillor Sarah McDermott & David Hunt (POST Manager)

Recommendations:

1. Submit to Swindon Borough Council (SBC) a tree planting scheme as part of the Great Western Community Forest (GWCF) Project. The planting for this upcoming Winter 2021/22 season will take place at the Parish owned land at Tadpole Lane. A map of the site is attached and a list of tree types. Approximately 1600 trees (whips)
2. As part of the GWCF project, for the Winter planting season 2022/23, investigate obtaining permission from SBC to plant trees on land maintained by the Parish, but not owned by the Parish – sites for consideration, the bottom of the slope at Hyssop Close and sites at Mouldon Hill park.
3. Apply to The Woodland Trust, for free trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022. **Free Tree Packs Application Form - Woodland Trust**, though this is aimed at schools and community groups. These trees will be distributed in November 2021, and will for part of the planting at Tadpole Lane.
4. For bulb planting this Winter, the Parish just selects two or three sites, and aims for a large dramatic display. Suggested locations, entering the Parish from West Swindon on to Thamesdown Drive, the green verge between Purton Road & Purton Road, the roundabout bottom of Purton Road & Akers Way.
5. For bulb planting this Winter select dwarf varieties, they can have a longer flowering period, as the grass cutters will be able to mow around them during the first few cuts in March 2022.
6. Wildflower seeds to be scattered around "Haydon Henge", primarily poppies. Thanks to David Hunt, for collecting seeds.

Notes:

1. Ideas also floated as this meeting (3rd August 2021), hanging baskets & planting bus shelter roofs. These ideas need further investigation.
2. GWCF Project provides all plants (whips), tree guards, stakes etc covered and beating for 3 years. GWCF can cover woodland costs for up to 15 years. If HWPC need paths signs protective fencing etc GWCF Project will cover the cost.
3. As HWPC has its own staff GWCF will provide a grant to cover their pay,
4. The GWCF project is part of a national initiative involving 10 Community Forests across the country. The project is called "Trees for Climate".
5. This season Winter 2021/22 whip planting will be "bare roots" whips 0.2-0.9m in size.
6. Planting will involve site preparation, strimming, planting the whip, placing a mulch mat at the base of the plant, and installing a tree shelter around the tree.
7. The shelters would be a choice of two depending on the size of the plant, 300mm spirals or 1.2m tree shelters.

8. First season maintenance would be minimal possible 6 x monthly visits of 16 labour hours per visit
9. Season 2-22/23 planting could be much more labour intensive, larger mature trees to plants and then 2-3 years of maintenance.
10. Also discussed the possibility of planting wildflowers on Westfield Way between Morrisons and the Manor Farm Public Houses, using pre-seeded turf, as there is a cost involves seek sponsorship i.e. Morrisons.

Tree Species:

Acer Campestra (Field Maple)	Tillia (Lime)	Prunus (Cherry/Sloe)
Alnus (Alder)	Salix Frafilis (Willow)	Pryus (Pear)
Betus (Birch)	Salix Caprea (Pussy Willow)	
Quercus (Oak)	Malus John Downie (Crab Apple)	Plus (maybe) Planes &
Sorbus (Mountain Ash)	Malus Sylvestris (Crab Apple)	Sycamores.



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