

Community Development Committee 2nd August - Agenda 19

PROJECT	Tadpole Field – The Creation of a Community Woodland
LEADER / PARTNERS	Haydon Wick Parish Council and Swindon Borough Council (SBC)
COUNCIL POWERS	Open Space Act 1906, ss. 9-10; Open Spaces Act 1906, s.15-England
FUNDING SOURCES	Trees for Climate funding from Defra via Swindon Borough Council Great Western Community Forest Team Trees for Climate – England’s Community Forests (englandscommunityforests.org.uk)
ADVICE / USEFUL CONTACTS	SBC’s Great Western Community Forest Team, Forestry Commission, Haydon Wick Parish Council
+ Requirements:	To provide land (minimum of 0.1ha) to create community woodland and capture carbon.
SKILLS	Site layout, tree planting, staking and tree protection. Community engagement – facilitating and leading on four community tree planting events.
RESOURCES	Staff time to transport materials to site and assist with tree planting events. Labour to install mulch mats following planting.
MATERIALS	1,300 whips, tree planting spades, stakes, shelters and mulch mats (all provided by Trees for Climate funding).
PERMISSION	Tadpole Field is owned by Haydon Wick Parish Council, so landowner permission was secured from the outset. Permission had to be sought from the County Archaeologist, the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and the Forestry Commission as the proposed community woodland was greater than 0.5ha. Permission was also sought from the Environment Agency, due to the proposed planting being within 7m of a main river, the River Ray. The Great Western Community Forest Team assisted in obtaining these consents.
CONTRACTORS	Labour was provided by the Parish’s grounds maintenance team and volunteers (61 volunteers attended the tree planting events).
Steps to Success:	1. Identify a suitable location for your woodland 2. Obtain landowner permission 3. Ensure all necessary checks are carried out 4. Engage stakeholders from the outset 5. Good communication and partnership working throughout the project 6. Encourage community investment and involvement with the woodland
ECONOMIC BASIS	Trees for Climate funding will cover maintenance of the woodland for 15 years. Parish Council has responsibility for maintaining grass paths on the site.
COMMUNITY BENEFIT	The creation of a community woodland has a positive impact on mental and physical health. Woodlands provide a venue for social activity and educational resources.
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	The carbon sequestration calculation is not exact, but we can estimate that an average of approximately 429 tonnes of CO ₂ are stored in one hectare of land (formula taken from Forest Research). Tadpole Field will eventually sequester around 300 tonnes of carbon and increase canopy cover within the Parish by a significant amount. The community woodland is a significant opportunity to provide lasting benefits for wildlife and improved biodiversity.
MAINTENANCE	Trees for Climate supports with maintenance costs for the first 15 years after the woodland creation. Following the period of establishment, maintenance of the woodland will be minimal. Creation of a community woodland group would be encouraged by the Parish Council working in conjunction with the local wildlife trust.