

# Winster Parish Council Tree Planting Proposal

## BACKGROUND

Towards the end of 2019, the parish council sought the views of Winster residents via a resident's survey. The aim of the survey was to collect information about problems, concerns or opportunities for the parish which would inform and assist the work of the parish council. A total of 37 responses, 20 via online submission and 17 paper copies, were received. Responses to a question regarding the green spaces plan indicated a lot of support amongst the respondents, for grassland enhancement and tree planting. The grassland enhancement programme was formally adopted and implemented in Spring 2022 and has produced very encouraging results in its first year. The parish council would now like to advance their plans to plant suitable trees in suitable locations on land for which it is responsible. This document identifies potential areas for planting and discusses species and size selection based on site considerations, such as soil type, exposure and available space. Following wider consultation, it is anticipated that more detailed planting plans for each chosen area, will be developed, with the intention of starting planting work in Autumn 2023. The document is provided to inform residents of the council's plans and provide an opportunity to give feedback.



## WHY PLANT TREES?

The benefits of trees are well documented and in recent years their contribution to mitigating the effects of climate change have become more widely understood. Trees can:

- Slow the flow of stormwater and alleviate flooding
- Maintain soil nutrients
- Support a wide range of animals and plants
- Provide physical and mental health benefits
- Improve water and air quality
- Capture carbon
- Connect natural habitats

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 places the following biodiversity duty on all public bodies:

“Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”

The duty applies to all local authorities, including parish and town councils. Its purpose is to raise the profile of biodiversity and make it a natural and integral part of policy and decisionmaking. Going above and beyond what is required by law can further enhance and protect biodiversity, and also save money and resources. The United Nations have stated clearly that there is no pathway to net zero without protecting and restoring

nature, and they are encouraging countries, businesses and organisations at any level, to include nature-based solutions in their climate plans and make ambitious commitments to build nature positive economies and societies.

The parish council strongly believe that we must play our part in enhancing our local habitats and must therefore consider all opportunities to do this on the land for which it is responsible. We also recognise that in doing so, we must consider the views and concerns of all residents and in particular, those who may be more directly impacted by such plans.



#### **WHICH TREES TO PLANT AND WHERE**

In order to ensure success, any tree planting scheme must be properly planned. Not only must the requirements of the newly planted trees be fully considered, but also those of the mature trees that they will ultimately become. That way the trees will establish well and will be allowed to reach maturity without being subject to post planting pressures that can very often see trees removed. The 'right tree in the right place' is an important principle to be guided by.

Most trees can grow in a range of conditions, though some will prefer particular soil types. Soil testing of proposed areas will be required ahead of selecting the stock. Using a mix of species will make the planting scheme more resilient to pressure from pollution, climate change, pests and diseases. A mainly native selection would be preferable but other species should also be considered where appropriate.

Trees can be planted at different sizes from small bareroot whips up to large pot grown heavy standards. Smaller stock is cheaper and often easier to establish, although the impact of the planting can take longer to be realised. It is also likely that the parish council could obtain free tree whips from organisations like the Woodland Trust. It is expected that the majority of proposed planting on parish council land, will involve the use of whips. The parish council should also consider the addition of native woodland and woodland edge shrubs, which provide additional interest and wildlife benefits, these include shrubs like Guelder rose and Spindle.

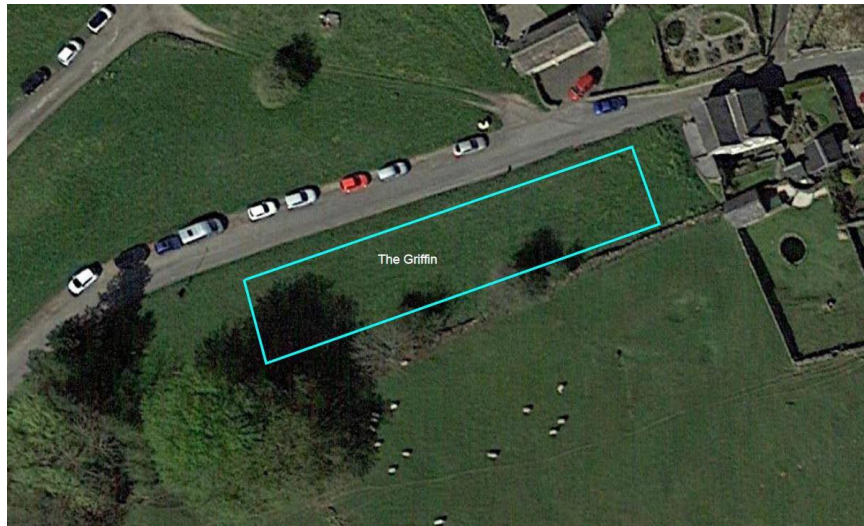
The trees will require protection from rabbits and squirrels and physical support in the first two years. This is achieved with the use of small stakes and tree shelters. Tree shelters, as opposed to simple rabbit guards, provide the trees with a microclimate, that can help establishment.

Aftercare is important to the successful establishment of newly planted trees, and this can

involve watering in excessive dry spells, mulching and weeding to reduce weed and grass competition and replacement of any failures. Aftercare would be written in to the planting specifications.

## POTENTIAL PLANTING SITES

### The Griffin



This area is currently grassland and is part of the grassland enhancement programme. It extends round to the car park where an area of trees was previously planted. This area could support a considerable number of additional trees, planted as whips at 2-3m spacings. This would expand the existing planting area and reduce ongoing mowing costs. It would of course remove an area of enhanced grassland but the benefits will most likely outweigh the costs.

A 2m verge will still be maintained around the Griffin and a 6m buffer, free of trees will be maintained on the boundary with adjacent properties which will also keep the footpath to Wyntor Rocks clear. A level of proactive maintenance work is recommended for the existing copse of trees. This can be built into a future tree maintenance contract.

### Town Meir



Town meir is also part of the existing grassland enhancement project and has the benefit of a pond/wetland area. The area would be further enhanced by the addition of trees and this could be achieved by planting mixed native hedgerows (planted as whips in a double

staggered row at 3 trees per metre), in the green areas highlighted on the map.

### **Woodhouse Lane**



The pond and orchard group have previously planted a hedgerow of trees on the western boundary of the site. There is an area currently dominated by goat willows (as highlighted), that could be infill planted with suitable species of trees and woodland shrubs. This would require some maintenance to be undertaken on the willows and consideration should be given to the future height and position of the new trees, so as not to obscure a much loved view down to the pond and across the valley, from the top of the site.

### **Shothouse Spring**



The plan shows an existing group of ash and a mature ash tree that are in poor condition due to ash dieback disease. Their removal will be required in due course and that creates an opportunity for restocking this area with suitable replacements planted as whips at 2-3m spacings.

### **Planting opportunities on third party land**

It is hoped that by planning, undertaking and publicising a tree planting programme, the parish council may encourage other landowners in the village to follow suit. It may also be possible to encourage landowners to do this by the PC facilitating those projects in some way, with assistance from external groups such as the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

The above plans are for illustrative purposes only and are not to scale nor should be relied upon to be wholly accurate.

**Cllr Dave Robinson**

**Winster Parish Council**