

## **Drinkstone Parish Council, Trees**

**Report to the Annual Parish Meeting Dated 6 June 2022.**

**Agenda Item; Councillor portfolios**

### **OVERVIEW AND UPDATE SINCE THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.**

#### **Overview**

Tree loss and poor health continue to be a concern. The triple whammy of climate change, new diseases and tree clearance resulting from new development and ditch clearing are resulting in the loss of mature trees, and a consequent erosion of landscape character and wildlife habitats. Ash dieback (Chalara) is perhaps the most serious threat to the tree population of lowland Britain and a huge replanting effort will be needed to offset the loss of ash trees over the next 10 years. The Woodland Trust and The Suffolk Tree Wardens Network are working hard to promote tree and hedgerow planting and have provided free trees and materials assistance to many Parish Councils and landowners over the past year, including Drinkstone. Tree planting efforts are being redoubled under the Queen's Green Canopy Project across the UK and landowners and Parish Councils are being urged to participate in restoring tree cover.

#### **Achievements**

The winter of 2021/22 saw a total of over 100 native deciduous trees and 100 metres of hedgerow planted in Drinkstone Parish under the banner of the Queen's Green Canopy Project. Many thanks in particular to Robert Baker, Nick and Jane Hill, and Duncan and Lyn Hannant who made room for planting most of these trees on their land. The details are as follows:

50 Oak and Hornbeam, 50 metres native hedging along field boundaries at Hall Farm and Burts Farm  
30 Beech at the Old Rectory  
18 Oak, Wild Cherry and Wild Service trees at Julia's Wood.

#### **Ongoing Activities**

It would be fitting to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by planting some larger specimen trees on Parish Council land. I suggest that a small group of Large Leaved Limes is planted on land the Council owns at the corner of Garden House Lane; this is a prominent position at southern approach to Drinkstone Green and would benefit from environmental improvement. I think it may also be possible to find room for another specimen tree, perhaps a "Jubilee Oak" on the Cricket.

I would be pleased to hear from any landowners who would like to plant more trees this winter and may be able to arrange the free supply of native tree and hedging plants. It would be great if we could plant at least another 100 trees this coming winter.

**Prepared by Cllr Peter Holborn, Parish Tree Warden**