

Drinkstone Parish Council

Tree Warden's Report

Report to the Ordinary Meeting Dated 5th^h December 2022

Agenda Item; Councillor Portfolios

1. Update on Last Winter's Planting

Terri and I have checked the survival rates of all the trees that were planted under the Queen's Canopy Project in Drinkstone Parish last winter and despite the exceptionally hot, dry summer we were pleasantly surprised at how many are still alive.

Robert Baker's new 44 field boundary oak and hornbeam trees at Burt's Farm and Hall Farm are in the most exposed positions, but even so exactly 50% have come through the summer. He will be replacing all those that have died this coming winter.

In Julia's Wood all of the new 16 small saplings are alive and growing well. Only the 2 larger oaks have succumbed to the drought which demonstrates the benefits of planting smaller nursery stock in most situations.

Virtually all the trees and shrubs planted in the NE corner of the Rattlesden Road Allotments are alive, only the Lucombe oak died and I will replace it this winter.

The stretch of new hedging alongside Cora's walk nearest Lane End Cottage is doing well, but the smaller section further on which wasn't planted until March hasn't fared so well and I will gap it up this winter.



2. Planting Plans for Winter 2022/23

The Queen's Green Canopy Project is carrying on to commemorate the late Queen Elizabeth's reign. The Woodland Trust are generously supplying native trees, hedging and planting materials again this year and I have just taken delivery of 100 cell grown trees and 400 bare root hedging plants. The trees are mostly destined for Burt's Farm, Hall Farm, Julia's Wood and the Parish land on the corner of Garden House Lane. The hedging plants will be planted on the Gedding Road allotments, the Parish land on the corner of Garden House Lane, alongside Cora's walk and on Sue and Jock McClaren's land off Rattlesden Road.

The PCC has told me that The Diocese is also providing a tree for every churchyard so we will be receiving one for All Saints. I will be arranging our usual churchyard winter work party when we plant the new tree as well as carrying out routine tree management work. I will also be liaising with Councillor Lambert to arrange a work party to tidy up the dilapidated fence on the corner of Garden House Lane and carrying out the new tree and hedge planting.

Councillor Peter Holborn
Drinkstone Parish Tree Warden