

STEYNING FOR TREES

14th October 2019

BRIEFING PAPER FOR AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF THE
PARISH COUNCIL.

Tree Planting at Abbey Road (north). LGS candidate site 10

Thank you very much for giving us this opportunity to plant more trees in Steyning. The main advantages we feel are:-

- To be part of the campaign to combat climate change and encourage biodiversity.
- To further enhance an attractive recreational area, and hopefully add to the network of footpaths.
- To support local residents ,who are keen on this scheme.
- To tackle concerns re traffic noise: an increasing problem in future due to Ikea + housing (see Neighbourhood Plan : Character Assessment.paras. 4.51 & 4.70)
- To utilise free trees available for communities from The Woodland Trust.
- To hopefully involve local school students in planting and early maintenance, to give them practical experience of environmental management (D. Buckett).

Maintenance

- these trees will eventually be no larger than apple trees, specifically chosen for their low long term maintenance. (Any larger trees in the “pack” will be donated to eg schools or private gardens).
- Discussed with Woodland Trust: weeding in early years, followed by occasional pruning.
- We are working to obtain sufficient funding for rabbit protectors and a separate fund for any future maintenance (excl. existing trees).

Proposed location

TQ180116 Grid . Neighbourhood Plan LGS 10, Abbey Road (north) – part of.

Densities & rough positions

The area we wish to plant is 0.1925 hectare approx.(..See attached map and plan by D. Buckett) . It is thought we should need 180 to 220 trees, one per square on Plan.= approx. one tree per 10m²). The Woodland Trust supply free trees to communities in multiples of 105 ,or possibly 105 plus 2 packs of 30.

It is proposed we plant trees suitable for the wetter area (B - C on google map) i.e goat willow . A clearing could be left in the middle of the pentagon and developed into a small wildlife meadow with naturally occurring footpaths leading to it. Along the side A – E it is likely that mainly hedgerow trees such as hazel, holly and hawthorn will be planted at a higher density. Elsewhere in the pentagon a variety of trees will be planted randomly in curvy lines, enabling a mower to mow between them initially, until they are established, carried out by Steyning For Trees.

Species

The Woodland Trust supply a mix called Wild Wood specifically for wetter areas (hardy native species) mainly small , low maintenance trees. Anything larger can be left out or given away. Hazel, crab apple , hawthorn, holly , goat willow, downy birch. If funds allow we could add in individual trees to be chosen by the residents, eg rowan, guelder rose , buddleia (for butterflies) in the dryer area.

Upkeep

See maintenance above , plus our commitment to hedge trimming and initial mowing until trees are established.

Funding

Although this is a fairly low cost scheme, with supply of free trees from the Woodland Trust and hopefully free planting by school students and community, we are at present seeking funding, for this and other projects, from: The Steyning Society, Countryside Charity, Rampion. Co-op (January).

Conclusion

As shown by the tremendous enthusiasm expressed to us at the October market, when 240 saplings were eagerly taken for planting in Steyning gardens, we felt that Steyning residents were keen to support this practical and attractive way of achieving carbon capture.

We do hope that, with your endorsement, , this scheme will succeed , for the good of future generations in Steyning.

Notes

- (a)** With your agreement, and to help foster community involvement, we would hope to make the planting into a community event (Great Plant Up?) for Abbey Road and the wider community in Steyning. (bacon butties, bands, local brewers.....)
- (b)** There is some urgency in that we cannot apply to the Trust until we have formal PC agreement; and we believe that availability of trees, for next March, is already tight.

Attachments

Abbey Road (north) google map.

Abbey Road “Pentagon” plan