

Subject:

FW: Notes from Abbey Rd 'Trees for Steyning' WP. Wed 13th Nov

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Present: Jo Gordon, Paul Campbell Sarah Sullivan, Dave Buckett, Simon Zec and Roger Brown

We considered three parts of the Abbey Rd north Open Space where tree/hedge planting could be achieved.

1. Abbey Rd itself.

- Discussion on whether well spaced specimen trees could be planted along the line of the road, on both sides. (*)
- possibly be sponsored trees, as Val Rush originally envisaged. Ask Val for her views on this.
- choice of tree would be crucial. Not too tall when mature, or spreading, but large enough when planted to be substantial and robust enough to survive as a roadside tree.
- Planting would need to set back from the road surface.
- As this is a highway, WSCC could be the agency to plant them. Jo will check with her contact re maintenance and protection plan for new trees.

2. 'Pentagon' area on Dave's plan

- propose establish 2 new hedges along lines A-E and D-C on map. They measure 89 linear metres combined. Estimate of 420 plants needed.
- sourced from Woodland Trust (free). Canes and protective spirals will also be needed (not free). Jo to order as soon as possible for probable delivery and planting next Feb/March
- local groups and children should be involved in the planting, under supervision.
- possibly some single tree planting within the Pentagon area later, but felt it was important to keep the open nature of this space, not to turn it into a wood.

3. Rough Area north of 'Pentagon'

- has now flooded in part, and the winter pond has formed. It has many trees/saplings growing within the flooded area. It was proposed that these be cut at ground level (once the area has dried out next Spring/Summer). This will create a much more open area of standing water that will be more favourable for wildlife generally.

(*) I had a quick look at tree nurseries.

English Woodlands. 2m tall trees cost £45. Up to 4m tall cost £160

Barcham Nurseries. 3-4m trees cost c£190

Species that would might consider include; Whitebeam, Rowan, Field Maple, Hornbeam, Silver Birch, Autumn Cherry, Bird Cherry.

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

Subject:

FW: Abbey Rd south. Orchard Proposal. Update for 26th Nov Amenities

Proposal for a small orchard at Abbey Rd south. From Steyning Community Orchard (SCO). Nov 2019.

Note. Since this proposal was sent to SPC Amenities Cttee in October, we have had further discussions with the SCO Steering Group and with the 'Trees for Steyning' working party.

We still wish to have this proposal considered by the Committee in principle, but will return with a detailed proposal later in 2020 for a final decision.

That will give us time to properly assess the site, find possible donors for the trees and take into account local residents' views.

If we get the go-ahead, we would expect to commence planting from Feb 2021 onwards.

The area we are considering is the western part of the Abbey Rd south site. It is a long rectangular plot of mown grass with brambles and nettles encroaching on the north west side. There is an area at the far end of this plot towards the Church that measures 31m x 16m and is the area identified as most suitable for planting some fruit trees.

- With a generous spacing of 6 metres between semi-dwarfing trees (on MM106 rootstocks with mature height of 3-4m). We could plant around 12 trees here, whilst keeping the central area open.
- Some clearing of nettles, bramble and fallen branches would be needed before planting could take place.
- The new fruit trees could be memorial trees with Council approval.
- No protective post and wire fencing would be required as there are no deer here.
- Mowing would be kept simple with the trees in straight lines.
- The SCO would source and plant the trees. Planting could be phased over several years.
- Occasional SCO work parties would be needed for maintenance

The attached map shows the location. The blue area is the proposed Orchard site. The red dots are possible tree positions. (PS this is not a swimming pool with red ducks on it, as has been suggested!)

