

To: John Fullbrook
Subject: FW: Abbey Road Planting proposals

From: Steyning Trees <
Date: Sat, 19 Sep 2020 at 10:28
Subject: Re: Abbey Road Planting proposals
Dear

Thank you for your email. As the PC letter indicates, this is the hedge which was approved by the Parish Council, after 6 months discussions with their Amenity Committee, and was due to be planted at the end of March. There was to be a 'Big Plant Up' advertised by posters which had been displayed throughout the town to which all residents were invited, it was to take place on Good Friday but had to be postponed because of Covid 19. This is now a good time for the actual planting to take place as we have carefully nurtured the original plants through the summer.

We are only one group hoping to support the Council in its objective of optimising Abbey Road's environmental potential for the future generations living in Steyning. We feel that hedge planting as well as more trees, is a vital tool in trying to reverse the catastrophic decline in bio-diversity as shown in the 2019 State of Nature report. This will provide nesting for many birds and homes for a diverse cross section of species, helping to create wildlife corridors through Steyning. To follow is our recent Newsletter.

We know you will be aware of the many other benefits, including carbon capture, reduction of pollution as well as helping to fight climate change.

We will forward your letter to the Parish Council.

With best regards,

On Fri, 18 Sep 2020 at 16:46,

Hello,

Along with other residents of Abbey Road we would like to understand more about what you are trying to achieve with the proposed planting and why there was so little information shared and at such short notice to the actual activity.

It is fabulous that these groups exist to support the environment and wildlife communities but it is very difficult for residents to appreciate the groups aims and goals without clear timely communication.

Can you pls advise me who was consulted and when? I am part of the Abbey Road Steyning WhatsApp group and I will be happy to share information.

Additionally there is now a lot of chatter and concerns being expressed on the Spotted in Steyning Facebook page so it would be a good idea to post some further information there too.

I did try to do some further research myself looking at the Parish Council website and the Steyning for Trees link but I could not find and useful specific detail. Could you point me in the right direction to where this information exists please.

My own comments are:

If the hedge is something that will support wildlife and create a more natural environment could this pls be explained to us? I am sure many of us would be more supportive with some understanding of what you are trying to achieve. Thanks for sharing the link above

Simon Zec

but it did not provide any detail for me. I also tried to find something on the Parish Council Website? I have not spoken to one person in Abbey Road that was consulted on this. Could the hedge be planted back across the field in front of the current natural tree line? This would maintain the open vista that we all love but hopefully allow your support of wildlife and natural habitats? The letter we received was dated 10th Sept - was not received until this week and the proposed planting is 25th Sept. Understandably residents are frustrated and responding without a proper understanding of the proposals.

I agree it is such a shame to block that lovely view - it is a joy to drive down our road and see that space on either side. We live in Abbey Road and was not consulted. The leaflet that was posted through our door a few days ago shows the hedges but the key is not completed on the map so we have no idea what trees and hedges are being planted, so no idea of scale etc. Final comment - will this create another area where rubbish will accumulate where the kids hang out? Abbey road residents are already picking up a lot of litter from the 'den' areas. It would be lovely to understand what the benefit to the residents will be please?

We don't want to complain for complaining sake but equally residents love this space. Whilst enhancements are being proposed seemingly with some excellent benefits it is understandable that those that use the space on a daily basis have some serious concerns. Especially by the way this has not been communicated and or consulted on.

I look forward to hearing from you and sharing your comments with my neighbours.

Thanking you in advance for your time and assistance,

Kind Regards