

From: John Fullbrook
Sent: 28 October 2021 11:55
To: John Fullbrook
Subject: FW: Abbey Rd Orchard item for Nov 2nd Communities Cttee

Briefing Note 6.1

Please see below – this supporting paper from the Steyning Community Orchard via Roger Brown. For your consideration and to discuss and possibly agree.

Proposed new Orchard for Abbey Road.

This request from Steyning Community Orchard was first submitted to the Amenities Committee in November 2019. We were asked to come back with full details in due course.

Description of site/proposal

- The mown recreational part of the Abbey Rd Open Space (Village Green) lies to the South East of Abbey Rd itself.
- The proposed location for the Orchard is at the far end of the narrow section of this area beyond the access to Church Mead.
- The proposed Orchard would measure approx 10m x 14m, and could hold 12 trees with a spacing of 4m between them. They would be semi-dwarfing apple trees on MM106 rootstocks.
- We would expect to plant 3 trees a year for the next 4 years, and would invite local residents to sponsor a tree, as we do for the MPF Orchard. We have 3 donors who have expressed an interest in having a tree here (2 of these transferred from the long waiting list for a tree on the MPF)
- No protective post and wire fencing would be needed here, as is necessary on the MPF.
- Mowing would be simple with the trees in straight lines, with sufficient clearance between and around them for the mowers.
- Occasional SCO or Abbey Rd Conservation Volunteers work parties would be arranged as needed for maintenance of the trees and surrounding areas.
- By 2030 these 12 trees would all be semi-mature, providing insects and bees with pollen and nectar over several months. It will also enhance the biodiversity and improve the wildlife corridor that is linking the open countryside beyond the by-pass with the Abbey Rd Village Green, Gatewick Park, the Churchyard and Fletcher's Croft.

Location



Site Plan



Regards,

Roger