

# WPC Tree and plant policy

## INTRODUCTION

Why are trees important?

- They make the village more attractive and desirable
- Absorb air pollution and noise
- Produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide
- Intercept rainfall and reduce run off and flooding
- Provide shade and shelter for people and animals
- Create a variety of habitats & food for wildlife
- Help to emphasise the changing seasons
- Produce fruits, nuts and seeds
- At the end of their lives they decompose to feed insects and other plants
- Help to combat climate change by sequestering CO2
- Are a source of inspiration and have psychological health benefits
- They produce wood

## PROPOSAL

This council

- accepts that there is an urgent need to plant more trees and create a wider range of wildlife habitats.
- agrees to do all that it can to encourage tree planting and wild flower planting within the parish, on its own land [where possible] and elsewhere.
- agrees the following recommendations for action:
  1. Planning conditions to reduce tree removal and encourage new planting or replacement planting, are to be actively discussed for all relevant planning applications under consideration by the council
  2. Where the planting of trees, shrubs or hedges are a condition of any planning consent the parish council will be proactive in ensuring that they are actually planted and that they survive, or if lost, are replaced by the developer. Where possible three-year maintenance schedules should be imposed and monitored.
  3. The parish council will take an active role in finding suitable sites for the planting of new trees, shrubs, hedgerows and wild flowers
  4. Appointment of a dedicated tree warden who may or may not, be a member of the parish council

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Existing / proposed, Community Planting:

- Mildred road verges
- East Mead Field Hedges
- 5 Raised wildflower beds creating diversity of habitat

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Adopted at the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019 parish council meeting -

Reviewed at the July 8th 2022 parish council meeting - revised and adopted