

## **Environment Working Group**

### **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting Project Review November 2022**

#### **70 trees for 70 years**

##### **Responses from landowners**

Aster replied to raise a number of queries, including about future and ongoing maintenance of the tree, and then subsequently confirmed ownership of the land identified for trees 13-15.

We have received responses from National Trust granting permission for the six trees to be planted within the playing field (trees 41-43 and 44-46), for the hedge in the play area.

On 13th October, Cllr Brooks replied to advise that none of the suggested sites on East Street and roads off are possible because of sight lines and health and safety, and the site at West Street Car Park itself is also unsuitable because of the close proximity of solar operated parking meters. The West Street / Holland Close sites that are acceptable are site 40 next to 1 West Street, sites 77-84 on the verge along Holland Close and site 85-90 on the West Street verge opposite numbers 70-80. Subsequently site 40 was identified by email from Andy Beale on 20<sup>th</sup> October as "Any sized tree here would create an obstruction to the vista of the Castle and church from the bench".

Cllr Brooks stated that Dorset Council has approached this project specifically to Corfe Castle, and don't feel it is comparable to the Swanage trees previously mentioned. Therefore, the hoped for 50/50 joint venture between the Parish Council and Dorset Council has not been followed through.

##### **Recent survey**

On 13<sup>th</sup> October, Cllr Helen Sumbler and David Kemp took a detailed look at Gods Acre and think it might be possible to increase the number of trees to be planted there from 5 to 9, and identified suitable species for each of these nine trees.

The planting sites at the play area were also looked at, and identified suitable species for each of the six possible sites there.

The field to the North of Gods Acre was also looked at as this is the fall back site, and this might be suitable for an avenue of trees on the field side of the stone wall, suitably spaced to avoid interruptions to views of the castle.

##### **Environment Group Decision**

At the Environment Group meeting on 20th October, the responses from landowners were reviewed. It was decided that rather than following up all sites, we should instead focus our funds and efforts on the sites leased to or owned by the Parish Council, comprising of the following sites:

- Play area, tree sites 41 – 43 and 44 – 46
- Gods Acre, tree sites 49 – 53 (agreed by Council), and new sites 92 – 95 (subject to a new motion)
- Hollands Close verge, sites 54 - 55, by the public conveniences

In addition, the Environment Group will also continue to pursue the possibility of planting on The Halves, and on land to the North of the boundary wall to Gods Acre, which we believe is owned by National Trust.

##### **Indicative Planting Costings**

Purchase of "feather" size trees (height 150-175cm with side branches) £65 - £84 (pot grown retail prices at Ornamental-trees.co.uk)

Staking kit £9.58, or planting kit with irrigation and rabbit / strimmer guard £19.79 (retail prices at Ornamental-trees.co.uk)

Mulch mat 1m x 25m roll @ £81.44 per roll, biodegradable bamboo fixing pegs 15cm long, 10 per tree = 160 @ 6p each = £9.60, delivery £40. Total £129.44 plus VAT, cost per tree £8.09 (prices without VAT from britishhardwood.co.uk)

Total average cost £75 + £15 + £8.09 = £98.09. Allow £100 per feather tree.

So for the total of 16 trees plus a box bush in the memorial garden, and the two hedges, the indicative cost would be £1,650.

As we already have David's trees, the Woodland Trust Queens Canopy Trees which have now arrived, and have been awarded another 450 trees from this year's Ovo / TCV offer, no costs for the hedge planting are anticipated. Species we have for hedge planting comprise aspen, blackthorn, bird cherry, common alder, common oak, crab apple, dog rose, dogwood, downy birch, elder, field maple, goat willow, green birch,

hawthorn, hazel, holly, hornbeam, rowan, silver birch, sessile oak, all from both the two free packs and David's trees, plus David has a few locally self-seeded specimens of ash, sycamore and Norway maple, which are not included in either of the packs.

## Maintenance / Aftercare

An annual survey of all new trees and the hedges is considered adequate, comprising of the following:

- Check the condition of the tree, checking for any vandalism, accidental damage, animal or insect damage or disease.
- Check any tie isn't damaging the tree.
- Check the condition of the stake / cane, leaving it upright and pushed firmly into the soil.
- Check the tree guard for damage and that it is still pushed into the ground to discourage pests.
- Check the mulch mat is still in good condition and secured to the soil, and remove any weeds growing inside the tree guard.
- Replacement of severely damaged canes / stakes / ties and tree guards.
- Carry out any minor pruning as required.
- Check for replacement of any dead, severely damaged or diseased trees.
- Check if any significant pruning or coppicing is required (year 3+).
- Check if any thinning of trees if required to reduce competition for light, water and nutrients (year 10 / 15 / 20 etc).

A total of 20 hours per year is considered adequate for these works, and it is proposed that this work be added to the Parish Caretaker workload, assuming he is competent to take on this work.

The above hours estimate assumes a volunteer working party can be arranged to complete:

- An annual survey of all new trees, recording the size and condition of each tree.
- Replacement of damaged / diseased trees.
- Help with significant pruning and thinning.
- Watering if required during drought months.

## Funding

The Environment Group has already received funding from Planet Purbeck of £1,000, which it is proposed will be spent on this Tree Planting Project.

It is also proposed that sponsorship be offered to parishioners for each tree on a first come, first served basis, at the rate of £150 per tree, including a maintenance contribution for the first 3 years, this could be shared by up to two parties if agreed privately between the two parties. We have already received 2 requests to contribute towards costs of the trees.

## Schedule of 70 Trees for 70 Years Tree Planting Sites

| No. | EG Map Ref | Site location                                    | Proposed species                                                                 | Final height /                                                                   | Landowner      | Services or other issues | Next steps                                                                       |
|-----|------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 29  | Map 2      | The Halves (between Nos 126 and 130 East Street) | Proposal now for a row of small trees, e.g. crab apple, hawthorn and bird cherry | Crab apple, approx 30cm per year, to 7-9metres                                   | National Trust | None obvious             | Seek agreement of National Trust to replace mown poplar with alternative species |
| 30  |            |                                                  |                                                                                  |                                                                                  |                |                          |                                                                                  |
| 31  |            |                                                  |                                                                                  |                                                                                  |                |                          |                                                                                  |
| 32  |            |                                                  |                                                                                  |                                                                                  |                |                          |                                                                                  |
| 33  |            |                                                  |                                                                                  | Hawthorn, approx 40-60cm per year, to 15metres, but can be controlled by pruning |                |                          |                                                                                  |
| 34  |            |                                                  |                                                                                  |                                                                                  |                |                          |                                                                                  |
| 35  |            |                                                  |                                                                                  |                                                                                  |                |                          |                                                                                  |
| 36  |            |                                                  |                                                                                  | Bird cherry, approx 20-40cm per year, to 25metres                                |                |                          |                                                                                  |

| No. | EG Map Ref | Site location                                 | Proposed species               | Final height /                                                                                                                                           | Landowner                             | Services or other issues            | Next steps                         |
|-----|------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 41  | Map 3      | Playing field next to Western boundary fence  | Hawthorn                       | Approx 40-60cm per year, to 15metres, but can be controlled by pruning                                                                                   | Leased to Corfe Castle Parish Council | Assume none, but to be investigated | YES                                |
| 42  |            |                                               | Hornbeam                       | Approx 30-60cm per year, to 30metres                                                                                                                     |                                       |                                     |                                    |
| 43  |            |                                               | Hawthorn                       | Approx 40-60cm per year, to 15metres, but can be controlled by pruning                                                                                   |                                       |                                     |                                    |
| 44  | Map 3      | Playing field next to Southern boundary fence | Acer Rubrum or Fagus Sylvatica | Acer - approx 40-60cm per year, to 20metres maximum, but usually smaller. Beech - approx 40-60cm per year, to 40metres, but can be controlled by pruning | Leased to Corfe Castle Parish Council | Assume none, but to be investigated | YES                                |
| 45  |            |                                               |                                |                                                                                                                                                          |                                       |                                     |                                    |
| 46  |            |                                               |                                |                                                                                                                                                          |                                       |                                     |                                    |
| 47  | Map 5      | Hollands Close, rear of 46 West Street        | Mountain Ash                   |                                                                                                                                                          | Private owner                         | Not applicable                      | Owner to plant trees, no EG action |
| 48  |            |                                               | Mountain Ash                   |                                                                                                                                                          |                                       |                                     |                                    |
| 49  | Map 5      | Gods Acre East Boundary                       | Bird Cherry                    | Bird cherry, approx 20-40cm per year, to 25metres                                                                                                        | Corfe Castle Parish Council           |                                     | Site agreed by Parish Council      |
| 50  |            |                                               | Grey willow                    | Grey Willow, approx 60cm per year, to 8-10metres                                                                                                         |                                       |                                     |                                    |
| 51  |            |                                               | Rowan / mountain ash           | Rowan, approx 20-40cm per year, to 8-15metres                                                                                                            |                                       |                                     |                                    |

| No.  | EG Map Ref | Site location                   | Proposed species                    | Final height /                                                                 | Landowner                   | Services or other issues                   | Next steps                                              |
|------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 52   |            |                                 | Rowan / mountain ash                | Rowan, approx 20-40cm per year, to 8-15metres                                  |                             |                                            |                                                         |
| 53   |            |                                 | Hornbeam                            | Approx 30-60cm per year, to 30metres                                           |                             |                                            |                                                         |
| 92   | NEW        | Gods Acre East Boundary         | Bird Cherry                         | Bird cherry, approx 20-40cm per year, to 25metres                              | Corfe Castle Parish Council | Some clearance of the spoil mound required | New sites, to be put to Parish Council                  |
| 93   |            |                                 | Holly                               | Holly - approx 10-15cm per year, to 15metres, but can be controlled by pruning |                             |                                            |                                                         |
| 94   |            |                                 | Dog Rose                            | Dog Rose approx 40-60cm per year, to 1.5metres                                 |                             |                                            |                                                         |
| 95   |            |                                 | Box Bush (in garden of remembrance) | Box approx 10-15cm per year, to 0.5-1.5metres                                  |                             |                                            |                                                         |
| 54   | Map 5      | Hollands Close verge by WCs     | Crab apple                          | Crab apple, approx 30cm per year, to 7-9metres                                 | Corfe Castle Parish Council | None obvious                               | Site agreed by Parish Council                           |
| 55   |            |                                 | Crab apple                          | Crab apple, approx 30cm per year, to 7-9metres                                 |                             |                                            |                                                         |
| 56   | Map 5      | Gods Acre Extension             | Oak (Jubilee tree)                  | Oak - approx 50cm per year, to 20-40metres, but can be controlled by pruning   | Corfe Castle Parish Council | None obvious                               | Being progressed by the Jubilee Committee, no EG action |
| 96 + | Map 5      | Field to the North of Gods Acre | To be confirmed                     | To be confirmed                                                                | National Trust              | None obvious                               | Seek agreement of National Trust                        |

## **70 x 70 trees for the Jubilee**

| <b>Completed Sites</b>                                                                                                                                  | <b>Number of trees</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Our Secret Field hedge planting                                                                                                                         | 120                    |
| Kimmeridge hedge planting                                                                                                                               | 250                    |
| Alison Palmer / NT / PP hedge planting by the Wicken                                                                                                    | 770                    |
| Norden Farm hedge planting                                                                                                                              | 1,300                  |
| Private landowner (email to the Clerk 16/4/22 – “recently planted 2 Pear trees, and before that a Willow, a Magnolia and the Christmas tree from 2021”) | 5                      |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                                                            | <b>2445</b>            |
| <b>Possible Sites</b>                                                                                                                                   | <b>Number of trees</b> |
| Hedging along the West boundary fence to the playing field (see Play Area Working Party Report)                                                         | To be assessed         |
| Hedging along old Eastern and new Northern fence in Gods Acre Extension                                                                                 | To be assessed         |
| Private landowner rear of East Street                                                                                                                   | To be advised          |
|                                                                                                                                                         |                        |
|                                                                                                                                                         |                        |
|                                                                                                                                                         |                        |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                                                            |                        |

**Motion 1** - Cllr Helen Sumblar puts forward this Motion.

**Corfe Castle Parish Council supports the Environment Working Group progressing with their Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Tree planting project on the following basis:**

1. Planting at tree sites 41 – 43, 44 – 46, 49 – 53, 54 – 55, and new sites 92 – 95 are progressed as per the attached schedule, as well as the possibility of planting on The Halves and on the land North of Gods Acre.
2. The Clerk investigates the best prices for the “feather” size trees, based on the indicative tree type / species in the attached schedule, subject to agreement with NT on the species of tree for sites 44 – 46 (request for native species vs the need to minimise impact on the views to / from the play area).
3. The Clerk investigates the best prices for associated planting accessories such as stakes, ties, guards, mulch matting and pegs.
4. The Clerk purchases the trees and planting accessories from the Environment Group funds (including the £1,000 from Planet Purbeck), up to a total of £1,650.
5. The EG and the Clerk work together to place an advertisement in December CVN offering tree sponsorship at a rate of £150 per tree; funds raised to go into EG reserves to replace the funds previously spent on the tree planting.
6. The hedge in the play area is progressed, comprised of native species, with planting to commence on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November.
7. The hedge along the old Eastern and new Northern fence in Gods Acre Extension is progressed, comprised of native species, with planting to take place after the Ovo / BCV trees have been delivered.
8. 20 hours extra be allocated of Parish Caretaker’s time for ongoing tree maintenance and aftercare, with costs re-allocated from EG reserves each year.

**Motion 2** - Cllr Helen Sumblar puts forward this Motion.

**Corfe Castle Parish Council supports the Environment Working Group, in support of the Play Area Working Group, progressing with the Biodiversity Improvements by scarifying the no mow area on National Trust Land and sowing yellow rattle seed, commencing on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November.**