



BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL TREE PLANTING STRATEGY

Introduction

Barton-le-Clay Parish Council is responsible for a significant number of trees across the Parish and has a duty to ensure that the tree stock is regularly maintained and kept in a safe condition. This stock includes trees of various species and size around the centre of the Village, trees in built-up areas and housing estates, trees in open spaces and wooded areas.

Background

Following the enforced removal of a number of diseased trees at Lovers Walk in 2020, the Parish Council's Highways & Environment Committee has sought to identify areas in the village where new saplings can be planted to compensate for this removal.

Having consulted with the Parish's resident Volunteer Tree Warden, there were only a limited number of areas available to the Parish Council to carry out any planting. The woodland area where trees were removed at Lovers Walk was not considered suitable for any future planting as it is still heavily populated with large trees and there is already natural regeneration within the woodland.

One area suggested was in the centre of Arnold Recreation Ground, on the boundary bordering the extension field, where a row of trees already exists. However, this only offered space for a handful of trees. It was suggested that as the Village was surrounded by a significant number of trees and was not short of green space, there was no urgent need to replant immediately.

With potential housing developments, changes to the Village landscape and areas of land within the Parish under-used, there are areas that can be considered for future tree-planting, but these will take several years to become available. Therefore, this strategy aims to look to the long-term plan to replace the trees lost but must seriously reflect the environmental and social obligations the Parish Council has to replace trees that have been removed.

Strategy

- To identify all trees and hedges by species under the control of the Parish Council
- To establish a regular maintenance schedule, managing the health of trees and ensuring the safety to persons and property
- To identify areas where appropriate saplings could be planted, including areas of land currently owned by the Parish Council and areas yet to be developed in the village for future planting
- To instigate a policy whereby any tree under Parish Council control that is removed or destroyed be replaced by a sapling of similar species within a 5-year period
- To ensure that future tree planting around the Village is of suitable and appropriate species for the area with long-term planning at the forefront
- To work with Central Bedfordshire Council to promote the replanting of trees on their land