

## Notes of a meeting of the Tree Wardens Task & Finish Group held 26 January 2022

### 1. People present:

Cllr Noel Robinson supported by Cllr Lucie Hoelmer (also Tree Council/ LCC Tree Warden Network Coordinator), via MS teams.

### 2. Apologies:

Cllr Rob Mayne, however Cllr Mayne had contacted Cllr Hoelmer to express support for more tree planting in areas that had lost trees.

### 3. Requirement for the working party:

The Parish Planning Committee agreed to form a working party to explore the role of Tree Wardens and relevance to the parish. Cllr Noel Robinson and Cllr Rob Mayne agreed to establish the working party.

4. **Election of Chair:** Proposed that Cllr Noel Robinson Chair the Working party and seconded by Cllr Lucie Hoelmer

This meeting was called to discuss the functions from LCC's guidance we felt were possible.

### 5. LCC's guidance and outcome:

LCC	Outcome
<b>Propagating Trees:</b>	
Growing trees for community sites in their Parish	Not deemed possible
Setting up tree nurseries	Not deemed possible
Try and involve the Community	Yes, essential for the project and its on going viability, recruitment drive
Think about local Provenance	Yes, to understand the history behind a tree, is it one we may wish to try to propagate (historic value), but currently outside our skill set
<b>Planting and caring for trees and woodlands</b>	
Schools and communities – organising events	Needs more knowledge, but an essential area, such involvement would hopefully reduce damage
Advice to landowners- Woodlands, hedge trees	Needs more knowledge, expect LCC training may enlarge on this, but most likely a long term aim.
Importance of aftercare	LCC Essential skilling / training
<b>Surveying:</b>	

Ancient tree hunt - <a href="http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk">www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk</a>	Recording such trees is an essential element, with mapping of location to seek to protect
Local records of trees of local interest	and TPO. Method / system? LCC help
<b>Raising awareness and campaigns:</b>	
Events.	Working Party to investigate further
Campaigns – Green Monuments, Hedge Trees	Working Party to investigate further
Parish Councils	See role further down
Trees and the law	LCC Training
Eyes and ears in the Parish, Spot incidents of vandalism, disease, damage, illegal removal of trees	Volunteers with training / technology
<b>(Volunteers?) Their own thing working with other organisations or on their own</b>	
Community Woodland acquisition-Burton on the Wolds	Needs more knowledge
Junior Tree Wardens E.g. Houghton on the Hill	Needs more knowledge
Photographing trees- Hobbies combined	To create a pictorial history
Travelling the world	Talks on and sharing examples of other projects at home and around the world
Fund raising	Suggested by a current warden

The following was received from Cllr Hoelmer, prior to this meeting.

## 6 Roles and responsibilities

### Leicestershire County Council

- Promote the initiative Countywide
- Organised training & networking opportunities
- Inform Parishes of funding and resource opportunities
- Be the Network link with the tree Council and fund the membership of Tree Council Network
- Support the parishes with initiative involving the Tree Wardens-Induction Training, Tree Identification and Local Wildlife Site, Ancient Woodland/Tree recording

### Parish council

- Keep the Tree Wardens informed of what is going on within the Parish regarding trees (they can be another source of communication with parishioners).
- Involve Tree Wardens in matters involving trees-invite to working party or committee meetings as necessary
- Support the Tree Wardens and help recruit new ones (volunteer manage).

## **7 Further discussion, proposed Management of the Tree Wardens in Burbage:**

The councillors involved would be lead wardens under the guidance of the Estates Officer. Each lead warden would support other wardens.

Additional input could be sought by asking people to be 'tree guardians', basically just extra eyes, example a dog walker. No further involvement other than reporting a problem.

- A Tree Warden would be a volunteer to the Parish Council
  - A point of contact for the community in terms of matters impacting trees in the Parish; someone who knows who to contact to report issues with trees, Tree Preservation Orders, Projects involving trees.
  - Someone who is enabled to undertake projects with and on behalf of the Parish Council.
  - NOT a Tree Inspector-no formal training to legally represent the council on safety matters concerning trees.
- 8 It was decided more information needed to be sought, at this point the meeting was closed.