



MELTON PARISH COUNCIL

REC(21)06.02

Tree Warden's Report

Having spent October and November far away, it was a relief to find that Martin was still keen to take over as Parish Tree Warden and we had considerable contact by phone and email. In early December Martin and I, socially-distanced, planted 40 saplings alongside Turnpike Lane and its spur. This gave us a chance to exchange many thoughts and pieces of information. In particular, he is now in touch with the Suffolk Tree Warden Network and through them has bagged a good supply of saplings. I checked with 'my' band of volunteers that all were willing to continue, which they are, and Martin is already in contact with them to exchange ideas for projects in the New Year.

Personally, I replaced defunct saplings in Orchard Close, and removed saplings planted alongside rural footpaths 2 years ago which sadly didn't survive summer droughts. Just recently I removed most of the plastic spirals from the thriving planting alongside the rec ground ditch and slit open most of the taller green plastic guards in order to clean leaf debris and allow further growth whilst still giving protection. (I anticipate removing the remainder of the plastic during the next 12 months, in liaison with Martin).

I also received an approach from a retired gentleman who is considering creating a directory of significant trees in Melton Parish, and was able to supply him with certain materials, contacts and guidance. Martin is now in touch with him.

I look forward to working as a volunteer with the team whenever I am available.

Lindsay Dann

Yes, we now have an email list, and a WhatsApp group under the name Melton Tree crew. Lindsay passed on his team of helpers, many thanks - we've started dialogues, I'm hoping to make it an ongoing conversation - there is already so much expertise in that group; I will need to welcome and be guided by that.

I can't tell you how pleased I am that Lindsay will still be offering continuity - where and when he can as part of the handover. He has passed over all relevant paperwork (no shortages there!). I'd like to develop some of the great projects that Lindsay had hoped to move forwards on, taken from the Burkes wood development plan.

I have developed a good working relationship with Frances Jannaway the Tree warden link person. I've been on many a Transition Woodbridge tree planting work party, in both Woodbridge and Melton, and have personally extended throughcare for the 4 trees that were planted to replace the old Cherry tree in the meadow off the footpath in between Bury Hill and Bury Hill Close.

I've walked Burkes Wood most days since first lock-down and watched how its use has expanded and changed. The development plan mentions problems re growth of alternative walking tracks - I need to report the development of some fresh bicycle runs, tracks, jumps etc. Not surprising, enterprising, and I'm

noting all ages enjoying this new self-created facility. AND, MPC may need to consider some sensitive management of this phenomenon?

Some woodland floor needs to be left undisturbed to encourage new growth, there is mention in the report of sourcing some re-usable tennis court size fencing compounds - to keep both muntjac and humans clear of some areas to encourage new growth. I'd like to progress this? Also in the woods, coppicing of those very enthusiastic sycamore is long overdue - something the Melton Tree Crew could take on?

There has been interest within the email group regarding the new land areas that are due to be divested into MPC management in 2021? We'd like to know how we can promote trees in these new areas?

To consolidate that 'we' I speak of, I wonder could MPC consider supplying half a dozen yellow hazard gilets for the potential use of a team of volunteers? That gives an 'authorised' air to a group of people at work on something together!

Martin Wilks

January 2021