



# MELTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## Tree Warden's Report

Work carried out recently:

1. Boundary by the lane (south side of recreation ground): we rediscovered last year's hedge planting (which had mostly survived but little developed because of drought and undergrowth) and installed new tubes and more substantial canes. We augmented them from the stock provided.
2. Large gaps at SE corner of recreation ground: not suitable for planting, we thought, so we manhandled tree cuttings to try and discourage further misuse.
3. Other gaps on East side; most have been blocked by Phil's work, and it is difficult to protect any new planting. However in one gap we planted roses, whose thorns will in time, we hope, discourage ingress by this route.
4. Below boardwalk (Former East Suffolk land): we planted 4 trees with spirals and canes in this area which is presently light and open, but are not optimistic about their survival as the undergrowth grows thick and shoulder high in season.
5. We augmented the planting that was done in January along Footpath 19 from Turnpike Lane to the woods with about 20 saplings.
6. We planted a couple of spares in the hedge between Turnpike Lane and the new houses

Lindsay Dann

The tree protection unit erected the 'protective ring' around Grannie Oak on the playing field entrance to the woods.

I think that making a bit of a story line about this project could be very helpful as a public engagement exercise in readiness for some of the protective/regenerative measures that may be actioned on account of Alice Martin's recommendations? So many local folks now, in the covid era, feel that they have a more personal relationship with this woodland - if 'the need to care, protect, consider' can be seeded then perhaps the more difficult issues - eg, please find elsewhere for off road biking, or please allow some of the multiple alternative footpath routes to drop back into wild, - may be better understood.

A suggestion from the tree crew team is that we might cover the roots with soil - perhaps use the fence-posts as support for wood board shuttering and build up a bed of soil against it then add fallen wood debris on top. Another option might be to lay a soil covering and turf it over - this would require further care and maintenance considerations?

We're running out of time for planting - I'm still intending to re-plant two of three 3 post cages in the woods where previous occupants have been smothered by bracken - and I will personally take care that it doesn't happen again this summer.

It was great to meet Alice Martin with Pip, and we've met since and exchanged a couple of phone calls - she's intending to make clear recommendations regarding protected planting areas - in her report.

It's a privilege to be working alongside a team of knowledgeable and enthusiastic locals; we are looking forward to hearing how we can be involved when the divestment land is finally completed, and wait to play our part in helping with Alice Martin's recommendations

March 2021

There are 4 x 3pole chicken wire enclosures in the 'new territory' woods. Two of the saplings have perished in the overwhelming summer bracken, they have been replaced with two oak whips. Old bracken has been cleared from around the enclosures, rotten posts, reinforced, and a supporting stake added alongside one healthy tree (oak) that was growing at an unsustainable angle.

The hedgelings either side of the footpath up from the turnpike lane entrance to the woods have all been recently watered (in defence against the unseasonably dry spring) and then mulched with chipping sourced from the Oak tree organic farm in Rushmere St Andrew. I now have an arrangement with them to pick up mulch when needed.

Pip and I walked the woods to view the patches of land identified in Alice's report where we might begin to re-stock the woods and agreed where we might best do this in the form of a compound protection versus individual posted cages.

And this coming weekend we will plant, and protect, the two new memorial trees in the playing field.

Martin Wilks, end of April 2021