

Dear Parish Council members,

Re: Tree planting around the playing fields

Thanks first to Luke for meeting up with Jen Yaxley, Sustainable Leaffield's Chair, to discuss a revised plan for tree positioning in the areas around the playground and vicinity; unfortunately, I was ill with flu and was unable to make the meeting.

Discussion produced a revised plan which can be seen pictorially in the google map attached:

1. A stand of 3-4 rowans/flowering cherries in the right-hand upper corner.
2. There have been silver birch planted individually in the car park hedges previously, and some have not survived. If there are enough silver birch, replanting would be desirable.
3. Move the cluster of trees we recommended by the skate park mound towards the existing two benches as indicated and to be silver birch only.
4. One tree suggested nearer to the skate park – likely to be rowan or cherry; I wonder if two or three trees here might make a more attractive feature rather than a solitary tree?
5. It was agreed that no other trees should be put in the area below stand one or along the playground fence line at this stage as it may interfere with playground redevelopment or indeed a potential multi-use hard court in the future.
6. The ash half way down the football pitch is not scheduled for removal so no need for additional trees there at this stage.
7. Possibly two further trees to be planted in the existing hedgerow around the preschool.
8. Compostable tree guards, stakes and ties would cost approximately £2.50 / tree and we wonder if the PC would consider paying for these, especially as it is able to reclaim the VAT – we will provide ordering details.
9. Sustainable Leaffield will plant all tree whips and provide the minimal maintenance needed.
10. When the playground changes have been made, we are happy to source further trees to go along the fence line [approximately; exact positions to be discussed at the time with the PC] and to plant and maintain them.

We understand that the PC's tree planting plan for Leaffield more generally is to plant larger numbers of trees on larger patches of land around the village – Luke suggested an extension to the community wood as a possibility, but land needs to be identified and secured first. We would be happy to help with tree sourcing and planting once sites are acquired.

In the meantime, these plans should not diminish any other small-scale plantings in the village such as the one currently suggested – every tree is a plus in support of WOCC's Climate Emergency plans and for the betterment of the village. We hope that the PC will give the go ahead for these planned plantings. As stated before, trees, especially free ones, are an easy win for Leaffield.

When the playground changes have been made, we are happy to source further trees to go along the fence line [approximately] and to plant and maintain them.

We would appreciate this being on the Agenda as previously requested for the PC's monthly meeting on Wednesday 8th.

Many thanks.

Best regards,

Maren White and Jen Yaxley
Sustainable Leaffield