



## **Community Development Group**

**Tuesday 26 February 2019**

### **Tree Protection and Promotion in Rushcliffe**

## **Report of the Executive Manager - Communities**

### **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. This report is to update the Community Development Group on the progress made on initiatives for tree protection and promotion in Rushcliffe.
- 1.2. The work on initiatives for tree protection and promotion in Rushcliffe was previously considered by the Community Development Group on 21 November 2017 and Cabinet on 9 January 2018 and Members approved the initiatives.
- 1.3. A presentation on the delivery of the action plan will be provided by the Environmental Sustainability Officer

### **2. Recommendation**

It is RECOMMENDED that members:

- a) Endorse the work that has been undertaken to protect and promote trees in Rushcliffe.
- b) Make any recommendations for future action.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1. Implementation of the recommendations of members from previous meetings to protect and promote trees in Rushcliffe has commenced.
- 3.2. Monitoring reports on the implementation of the initiatives are required by Cabinet to be presented to Community Development Group on an annual basis for their consideration.

### **4. Supporting Information**

- 4.1. Following Community Development Group on 21 November 2017 and Cabinet on 9 January 2018, a three-year revenue budget of £50,000 commencing in

April 2018, has been allocated, to initiatives for tree protection and promotion in Rushcliffe, as per the actions agreed with members at those meetings.

- 4.2. Work has progressed on initiatives for tree protection and promotion in Rushcliffe and a monitoring report is attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.3. The Rushcliffe Free Tree Scheme for residents, in 2018/19 has issued 391 Field Maple and 457 Wild Cherry, which were successfully distributed via three events held across the borough.
- 4.4. The Parish tree scheme is still ongoing but is expected to plant / deliver in 14 parishes, with a total in excess of 221 trees during 2018/19.
- 4.5. The planting schemes are expected to continue in 2019/2020. From the first year learning, it is planned to include a smaller tree (perhaps holly) in the planting choices for the residents free tree scheme and work with the parish councils to promote the residents free tree scheme.
- 4.6. The schemes were popular with residents and received the following comments:
  - 'Thank you for this great idea. I always feel sad when households cut down trees often with the reason "to create light" and do not replace them. I always notice their absence'.
  - 'Brilliant idea. Will encourage more birds'.
  - 'What a fantastic idea'.
  - 'Desperate for a tree in a sunny spot in my garden but 30 meters is just too tall!'
  - 'I'm all for the addition of more trees with the serious lack of gardens generally nowadays. We need to be doing more to help the wildlife in general seeing as most people opt to pave over their gardens to make driveways etc'.

## **5. Risks and Uncertainties**

- 5.1. Some of the actions contained within this initiative require delivery by partner organisations including parish councils and by volunteers. A risk exists that this delivery will not be achieved. A proactive approach is being taken to encourage delivery for example promotion at the Town and Parish Conference and by public media.

## **6. Implications**

### **6.1. Financial Implications**

An allocation of £50,000 has been made from reserves for the Tree Protection and Promotion scheme. This allocation covers the three year period 18/19 to 21/21.

During 2018/19, £12,500 has been spent of the £50,000 budget.

## **6.2. Legal Implications**

Supports the duty of the council in exercising its functions, to have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity, enacted by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

## **6.3. Equalities Implications**

This work is being delivered across the Borough, there are no known equality implications.

## **6.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications**

This work will help local communities to develop greater support for their environment, including protection mechanisms and therefore should strengthen community safety, if delivered sensitively. Consideration of planting sites should be made on a site by site basis to ensure these do not lead to isolation of public areas.

## **6.5. Other implications**

No other implication are foreseen.

## **7. Link to Corporate Priorities**

7.1. This supports two of the priorities of the Council's Corporate strategy:

- Delivering economic growth to ensure a sustainable, prosperous and thriving local economy
- Maintaining and enhancing our residents' quality of life

## **8. Recommendations**

It is RECOMMENDED that members:

- a) Endorse the work that has been undertaken to protect and promote trees in Rushcliffe.
- b) Make any recommendations for future action

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Paul Phillips Environmental Sustainability Officer Tel. 0115 9148595 pPhillips@rushcliffe.gov.uk
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<b>Background papers available for Inspection:</b>	Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Development Group on Tuesday 21 November 2017 Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet on 9 January 2018
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 - Tree Promotion Monitoring 17 Jan 2019

## Appendix 1

### Tree Promotion Monitoring 17 Jan 2019

Enforcement		Target Date	Progress
TPO	a) Training in TPO for councillors / parishes	1/3/17	Training delivered at the November 2017 Parish Forum
	b) Councillors and Parishes to notify suitable trees to RBC (could be supported by Tree Wardens, see below)	From 1/3/17	Ongoing
Planning	Include policies in Local plan part 2 e.g. "All planning applications will be considered with reference to the Rushcliffe Nature Conservation Strategy"	Summer 2018	Tree policy included in the Rushcliffe Local Plan Part 2: Land and Planning Policies Publication Draft
Community Infrastructure Levy	Establish a Community Infrastructure Levy to provide funds for tree planting / ecological enhancements, via planning gain from development sites that are unable to mitigate their ecological requirements on site.	Summer 2018	Green Infrastructure including Tree Planting has been deemed not suitable at this time for inclusion on the Regulation 123 list, therefore CIL cannot be used to fund tree planting / ecological enhancement.
Promotion			
General Publicity			<p>A web page has been set up at <a href="http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/trees">www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/trees</a></p> <p>A news article has been published at <a href="http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/aboutus/newsandpublications/latestnews/stories/name,46704,en.php">http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/aboutus/newsandpublications/latestnews/stories/name,46704,en.php</a></p> <p>Article in the Spring 2018 Rushcliffe Reports at <a href="https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/media/1rushcliffe/media/documents/pdf/newsandpromotions/RushcliffeReports_Spring2018_WEB.pdf">https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/media/1rushcliffe/media/documents/pdf/newsandpromotions/RushcliffeReports_Spring2018_WEB.pdf</a></p> <p>Article in the Summer 2018 Rushcliffe Reports at <a href="https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/media/1rushcliffe/media/documents/pdf/aboutus/news/RushcliffeReports_Summer2018_WEB.pdf">https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/media/1rushcliffe/media/documents/pdf/aboutus/news/RushcliffeReports_Summer2018_WEB.pdf</a></p> <p>Article in the Summer 2018 Rushcliffe Reports at <a href="https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/media/1rushcliffe/media/documents/pdf/aboutus/news/RushcliffeReports_Autumn2018_WEB.pdf">https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/media/1rushcliffe/media/documents/pdf/aboutus/news/RushcliffeReports_Autumn2018_WEB.pdf</a></p> <p>Plus frequent social media postings which attracted a lot of interest – reaching 39,900 users and having 3345 engagements with users.</p>
Specimen trees / gateway trees	Establish scheme details	March 2018	Scheme established as a Parish Tree Scheme, with invitations for parishes to participate sent in Summer 2018
	Trees	Summer / Autumn (2018, 2019 and 2020)	Further sites recommended by members are to receive planting where possible
	i) Order Trees		
	ii) take delivery of trees		
	iii) care for trees		
	Establish ordering system	May 2018	

	Deliver trees as required or Plant trees as required	Autumn (2018, 2019 and 2020)	Planting has commenced in Jan 2019. It is expected to plant / deliver in excess of 211 trees in 2018/19 under this scheme Invitations for planting during the 2019/20 season will be sent to Parishes during summer 2019
Rushcliffe Biodiversity Management Grant	b) Existing Rushcliffe Biodiversity Management Grant (will support tree planting of native trees e.g. in hedgerows or open spaces for nature conservation purposes)	Ongoing promotion	Ongoing publicity via Rushcliffe Reports, Web site, partner newsletters and websites, social media
Community Support Scheme	c) Community Support Scheme, councillors can allocate, funding from their community support scheme allocation to tree planting	Ongoing promotion	Ongoing publicity via Rushcliffe Reports, Web site, partner newsletters and websites, social media
Free tree scheme	Establish scheme details	April 2018	Free tree scheme established with sign up via the internet in Summer 2018 Ordered trees were distributed via events in West Bridgford, Bingham and East Leake in November 2018 The resident tree scheme for 2018/19 issued 391 Field Maple and 457 Wild Cherry to residents in Rushcliffe This scheme will run again in 2019, with applications beginning in June
	Trees i) Order Trees ii) take delivery of trees iii) care for trees	April 2018 Oct 2018 Oct / Nov 2018	
	Establish ordering system i) Use surveymonkey	May 2018	
	Publicity (inc. planting guide) i) design publicity ii) circulate publicity via social media, press releases, website	May 2018	
	Collection Event i) Establish date(s) ii) book venue(s) iii) Set up gazebo & banners etc. iv) Deliver trees to events	Sept 2018 Sept 2018 Nov 2018 Nov 2018	
Other Grants	Links to the Woodland Trust grants and Forestry Commission grants are given on the Rushcliffe Borough Council website. This information can also be shared at events and was published in the 'trees for life' article in the spring 2016 Rushcliffe Reports. Further publicity for these grants can be generated.		Links to other grants published on the council website
Tree Charter	Woodland Trust campaign to promote to build a future in which trees and people stand stronger together. Action can be as simple as signing up to receive free copies of the Tree Charter's newspaper "Leaf!" to gathering signatures of support, to more imaginative projects and activities around trees (e.g. apple fairs or tree days), for which funding of up to £1500 is available.		Woodland Trust contacted and initial meeting held April 2018, no further contact received from the Woodland Trust
Tree Wardens	Join Tree Council / Tree Warden Network	Feb 2018	RBC has joined the tree council Tree wardens were promoted in the Summer 2018 Rushcliffe reports at <a href="https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/media/1rushcliffe/media/documents/pdf/aboutus/">https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/media/1rushcliffe/media/documents/pdf/aboutus/</a>
	Establish Scheme details	Mar 2018	
	Promote Tree warden Scheme in parishes and WB, via Town and Parish	Mar – May 2018	

	Forum, newsletters, direct emails, social media		<a href="#">news/RushcliffeReports_Summer2018_WEB.pdf</a>
	Organise and Host Tree Warden (Trees across Rushcliffe) meeting / training	June 2018 and 6 monthly thereafter	It is planned to establish a Rushcliffe Tree Warden network in Spring 2019
	Produce e-newsletter and circulate	July 2018 and 6 monthly thereafter	
Hedge Tree Campaign	Tree council campaign to mark saplings with easy-to-see tags, so that they can be avoided when cutting hedges. This can be promoted via publicity and volunteer schemes.	2018/19	Not yet started – intended to be taken forward by Tree Wardens
Forum	i) Parish Forum – promotion of opportunities for parishes to promote, plant and protect trees, including all the items above. Use County landscape assessment to guide opportunities for each parish.	March 2018	Item on the March 2018 Parish Forum
	ii) Landowners Forum - promotion of opportunities for landowners to promote, plant and protect trees, including all the items above, working with NFU, IDB, Small Woodland Owners Group, Rushcliffe Business Partnership etc.	2019	Not yet started
Highways trees	Discussions with Highways England and NCC about verge management. Including potential volunteer verge management	Ongoing	Discussions started and are ongoing. NCC have authorised RBC / Streetwise to plant trees with their prior approval. A spreadsheet of missing NCC highway trees has been supplied
Community Awards	Ensure there are awards for environmental actions including tree planting / promotion / protection	Nov 2018	Environmental category included in the 2018 awards