

Drinkstone Parish Council

Tree Warden's Report

Report to the Ordinary Meeting Dated 3rd Aug 2020

Agenda Item; Councillor Portfolios

1. Tree Offer 2020

I am pleased to report that the Suffolk Tree Wardens Network in partnership with the Woodland Trust and Suffolk County Council is again offering free hedgerow and tree planting packs for supply from November 2020. There are 2 types:

Hedgerow packs each containing 125 plants of native shrub species (enough to plant 25m of new hedgerow) plus canes and spiral guards.

Tree packs each containing 50 cell grown whips, English oak, Hornbeam, Field maple, Wild crab and Wild cherry, plus stakes and tree guards.

I can apply for up to 4 hedgerow packs and 3 tree packs on behalf of local landowners. To be eligible the sites must not be private gardens or subject to a planning condition requiring for planting or replanting.

In addition I have a limited number of Native Black poplar, Wild service and English oak trees that I have grown on the Rattlesden Allotment site for distribution to good homes.

I will write a note publicising these offers to go out on Jungle Drums and the Parish Magazine. In addition I will be contacting individual landowners.

2. Birch House, Rattlesden Road DC/18/0101727

Under the terms of the planning permission granted by Mid Suffolk DC 4th July 2018, the applicant is required to implement the following :

“ All ecological works shall be carried out in accordance with the details contained within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Eco-Check April 2018) as submitted with the planning application and agreed with the Local Planning Authority prior to determination”

This includes:

- Installing bird and bat boxes on boundary trees (para 9.1.3)
- Planting up gaps in hedgerows particularly on the defunct east and west boundaries using native species (para 9.1.5)
- Cut small gaps in the bases of internal close boarded fences to allow the free movement of wildlife (para 9.1.5)

The permission goes on to state:

“Prior to occupation a biodiversity enhancement strategy containing the details and locations of the biodiversity enhancement measures proposed within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Eco-Chech 2018) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The works shall be in accordance with the approved details and shall be maintained in that manner thereafter.”

The building now appears to be substantially completed and ready for occupation. I request that the Parish Council writes to Mid Suffolk asking:

- a) Has the required biodiversity enhancement strategy containing the details and locations of the required measures been submitted and approved?
- b). That the native hedgerow and tree planting required above is carried out this coming winter planting season.

3. Land at Rookery Meade, DC/20/01519

I have heard nothing from the applicant or his agent James Bailey about discussing the landscaping and ecological mitigation measures. I suggest that I contact the agent to seek to progress this matter.

Peter Holborn

Parish Tree Warden