

## **Little Budworth Planting Group**

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### ● **Presentation to the Parish Council 5th February 2019**

This document is a representation of views collated by the planting group in response to a request from the PC for suggestions for improving the appearance of the village by means of suitable planting schemes.

We believe that this could be the beginning of a rolling programme designed to enhance not only the appearance of the village for our own enjoyment, but also secure its reputation more widely as a village of outstanding natural beauty in Cheshire.

Initially, for reasons of practicality, we have focused on developing the main route that runs through the village from the Coach Road to Mill Lane (see map). However we hope that the PC will embrace the project going forward and be prepared to support further development in other areas.

### ● **Sustainability**

Whilst we are keen to get this off the ground, we are mindful of the fact that planting on a big scale is a long term issue and will take many years to reach maturity. We therefore intend to embrace the principle of **sustainability** from the outset.

Short term results can be obtained by planting up containers and baskets around the village with colourful displays each summer. However we believe that this is a waste of time, money and resources. Such 'municipal planting', so much in evidence in parks, and on roundabouts requires frequent watering and deadheading and lasts for just one season. Our approach therefore has been to develop a more sustainable plan for the longer term which eventually will require less maintenance and will multiply and flower for decades to come.

**See Map**

## ● Legacy Planting

This is a scheme of planting designed to last for generations. Great landscapers of the past planted for the future and their vision gave us the wonderful landscapes we enjoy today.

We are aiming for a planting scheme that is consistent with our surroundings and reflects the essential nature of Little Budworth Country Park and we have embraced it in our thinking.

**TREES** are the key.....they give so much but ask so little. However **planning permission is required** to avoid future damage from large trees that have been planted in the wrong places. This could take a few months to obtain, so tree planting will not commence until the autumn.

We anticipate planting groups of trees at 5-6m intervals in the grass verge on the left coming from the Coach Road. Mindful of overhead cables and drains we propose starting after the Little Budworth signpost along to Park Road.

On each side of the bend going into Park Road there are two unencumbered grassy areas which lend themselves either to groups of 3 or 5 trees. Other areas may benefit from a single 'statement' tree.

Although our initial ideas included spring flowering cherries and autumnal colourful displays of acers, further thought is leading us towards using native species to fit in with the overall theme of our Country Park environment, for example **Hawthorns** and **Rowans**. In addition to lovely flowers in the spring, hawthorns in the autumn will produce haws and rowans will produce berries which have the added benefit of supporting wildlife in the winter. Native trees also have a better chance of survival.

The trees can be supplied by Morreys for planting at 8-10 ft tall, eventually reaching 12-15m. The displays eventually will be stunning and there is no doubt that future generations will thank us.

Continuing with the theme of native British planting, we also plan over the next five years, to plant the verges around the village with thousands of the smaller daffodil bulbs adding to those already in place as well as hundreds of primroses.

● **Ideas for immediate planting for spring 2019**

It will be possible to begin smaller scale planting and general tidying in the next few weeks, assuming that funding is made available. This will improve the main areas of the village for everyone to enjoy in the short term.

We have in mind the following:

- **ALL** of the village street signs could be underplanted with primroses and maybe a few bulbs 'in the green' depending on cost. If we are granted immediate funding, we can purchase trays of primroses and daffodils relatively cheaply at Stocks Lane Cash and Carry. We would hope to purchase pale yellow and white rather than the multicoloured varieties of primroses as these are more consistent with the country park image we hope to foster. These were available two weeks ago but will be selling out quickly as people go along to pick up their pre-orders, so we would need to move very quickly on this.
- 'Native' primroses are preferable but more expensive, however we can research a source for the future or even plant seeds ourselves and grow them on next year.
- There are some verges around the village which could accommodate small flowering shrubs eg Booth Avenue corner and the verge at the end of St. Peter's Drive. A variety of shrubs can also be bought at Stocks Lane if funding allows.
- The border near the church clock will be weeded and planted up with winter flowers eg hellebores and others plants given to spreading in order to cover weedy gaps and give lovely colour.
- The 'Bus Shelter' looks dreadful but will be improved with a tidy up and the creation of a rockery to each side. Barbara may have a cheap or free source of stone for this. There are many spreading rockery plants to choose from.
- The rusty Cheshire railings on the left as we enter Little Budworth are unsightly..... just a thought....Is there any chance of getting these painted? They could provide a dramatic feature as we enter the village from the Coach Road.

## ● Costings

Until we know whether we will get planning permission for trees it isn't possible to give a detailed budget. If we do get permission, the planting budget for the season Autumn 2018-Spring 2019 would most likely be taken up by the trees.

As a guide, the costs of some of the things suggested are listed below. Clearly there will need to be an annual budget from the PC for adding to our displays of bulbs etc around the village for the next 5 years, but most of the costs will be in the initial phase.

### • STOCKS LANE CASH & CARRY

We can enjoy instant colour this spring by planting the primroses under each street sign. Although Stocks Lane deal mainly with large bulk orders, they do sell some plants from stock but supplies are limited, so we have to move quickly.

Primroses: 10cm pots, 15 pots in a tray, £8 per tray (53p each)

Tete a Tete daffodils : 9cm pots, 18 pots in a tray, £9 per tray (50p each)

Variety of potted shrubs.....prices also vary but still much cheaper than garden centres.

### • MORREY'S FOR TREES

- Obviously prices vary depending on the type of tree.
- Average price is £30 per tree. We need to add in the cost of stake/tree tie and hopefully, professional planting.
- The minimum number on our plan would be 6 trees, 2x3 in each place (£130)+ planting costs. A better effect will be obtained from 2x 5 trees in each place (£300) +planting costs.

● **Parish Council To Do List**

- Application for planning permission for trees.
- Donation of funds to the planting group for urgent purchase of plants and materials for basic displays this spring
- Communicate planting group ideas to the village.
- Feedback request for comments and/or alternative ideas from villagers.
- Requests for interested volunteers who might be able to help us to plant bulbs next autumn.

Helene Kerr on behalf of the Little Budworth Planting Group.