



TREE PLANTING CONSULTATION

EVALUATION OF FEEDBACK FORMS

The Trees for Welford event was held on Friday 10th November 2023, 10am to 4pm in the village hall, 4pm until 7pm in the billiard room and 10am until 4pm, on Saturday 11th November 2023 in the youth and community centre.

It was attended by 96 villagers, including five visitors.

71 attendees completed the feedback form. Of those who indicated their age: nine attendees were aged under 12, four were aged between 12 and 18, eight were aged between 19 and 40, 23 were aged between 41 and 60, and 22 were aged over 61.

This is the feedback that we received:

GENERAL COMMENTS

Get planting.

Will continue to plan ahead for future generations and benefit them by planting now.

I feel like Welford needs more trees.

Strongly support the planting of trees, but please more variety. Avenues of the same species belong in towns not the country. Also worry about thuja plicata and nearby leylandii.

I think the trees should be evergreen.

Don't know a huge amount of tree species but think outlined looks great!

A small working party to finalise planting schemes involving representatives from the village hall, sportsfield and youth and community centre should happen.

There is no such thing as too many trees, but I feel the proposals meet a good compromise between open space and tree planting.

Think the ideas seem brilliant!

Well thought through designs, very informative event. All designs have merit. I particularly like the tree trail idea as a way of bringing in education. Maples will bring beautiful autumn colour. A huge thank you to all the Volunteers of Trees for Welford for all your hard work.

It's a nice combination of varieties. It would provide shade and also places for children to play.

I strongly support more trees, however too many large trees, looks like turning the playing field into a woodland, will make areas of the sportsfield very dark, bad for the grass and playing conditions.

I was a dinner lady at the school in the 1990s and always felt the need for shade.

I would prefer native trees naturally growing in our countryside but really don't know enough about the subject.

Very impressed with the work that Trees for Welford are doing. We definitely need more trees!

I fully support all planting areas. We were involved in the tree planting last year and would be willing to do so again. I was quite shocked to find that England had only 10% of estimated woodland coverage - and especially Northants - 8%.

Excellent. Great, and needed urgently. Fully supported.

Consider the churchyard extension as another place to plant. The reservoir as well. Is there anywhere along the canal that can be planted?

All the planting suggestions seem to be within only a few areas - have offers of planting opportunities from local landowners been taken up?

I prefer a mix of trees in a village rather than a uniform urban look, to reflect the organic evolution of a village, rather than looking samey.

As lunchtime supervisor at WSSES I would like to see a number of hedging whips planted at the bottom of the playground to stop the wind blowing directly from Siberia!

"People don't like being told what to do by people with no emotional connection to the land." A quotation from BBC Farming Today on farmers resenting being told to plant trees on land they managed!

Privet is a 'cleanser' for air pollution - in the High Street and others.

There seems to have been a great deal of work and it is very much appreciated. Thank you. I support the planting of any trees and can see the thought gone into decisions. Particularly like the sportsfield and playing field designs.

I have a 20 year-old granddaughter who has said to me she is worried about the whole climate change situation.

VERGE PLANTING AROUND THE VILLAGE

We asked: do you support the choice of Cherry Sunset Boulevard for general verge planting around the village?

58 voted YES

3 'didn't know'

3 voted NO

POSITIVE COMMENTS

I think this will enhance the village, not just in terms of climate change benefit, but also aesthetically.

Cherries are very pretty - will be nice around the village and on the entry/exit of the A5199.

I think this would look lovely and particularly in the spring!

Cherries look very good and would provide a good feel for the village.

We have them near Wakefield Drive and they are beautiful.

Excellent. Great and needed urgently.

We live on Westfield Crescent with beautiful cherry trees already planted that transform the view. However, we are concerned they are not well-maintained - if at all? - by the Parish Council, and we would hate to lose them due to lack of care.

This is a great idea for the village, the cherry will look beautiful.

A beautiful tree that will improve appearance of village as well as all the other benefits.

Will be a lovely way to enhance and soften the village streets.

Definitely, the addition of extra shrubs around the village would enhance the overall natural look for the village.

Yes, in principle, but only if highways are in agreement.

The proposal I made for some flowering cherry trees on the west side of the High Street could still work.

Street trees are a splendid addition to the street scene - providing habitat and shade.

Yes, perhaps interspersed with rowan and hazel.

There are some large verges, such as outside Avon Fields, that would be perfect for planting trees on.

Not too many leaves in autumn on the roads. They can be a problem in wet weather.

Seems a great space to plant them and they will look beautiful.

I love cherry trees so much! One of the most magical parts of spring. However, of course, petals may get in the way, and aren't as pretty when rained on.

They are very beautiful.

Pretty.

Very beautiful.

Love this style tree, think it will make the village look lovely!

Love it! Would really add to the High Street.

I do like to see cherry trees but they will drop their flowers across roads and footpaths which some people may not like.

A colourful tree - will make the High Street more attractive.

It is a good idea.

I like it because it is a pretty type of tree.

Non leaf dropping.

Very pretty.

Gorgeous colour choice and good root structure for near properties.

Lovely blossom in the spring, cool shade in the summer, beautiful colours in the autumn - what is there not to like??

Yes, passers-by probably won't even notice!

NEUTRAL COMMENTS

No views - happy to accept a qualified recommendation.

Not sure. It would stop traffic issues of mounting pavements in busy times - but would young trees get damaged before more established. Is there space further down? Will roots affect houses?

Yes, would prefer a variety of trees.

NEGATIVE COMMENTS

The Hillier's picture looks too big and bushy for roadside planting without a lot of maintenance - that is not going to happen. The cherry 'Spire' is a safer bet and is just as pretty.

Cherry 'Spire' will be better for verges. In time 'Sunset Boulevard' would have to be severely pruned. Why not a hedge? Especially by Avon Fields. Why no crab apples? Good for flowers and fruit.

I would prefer to see a variety of trees, not just one species.

THE PLAYING FIELD

GENERAL COMMENTS APPLICABLE TO BOTH PLANS:

I only ever see people on the playing field walking across, or, using the play and sport/exercise equipment. I NEVER see anyone playing impromptu games in the other areas (e.g. football with jumpers as goal posts or ad hoc games of cricket, etc.). Therefore, the field isn't used to its full potential.- why not tree it!

I would like to combine both ideas - the avenue would be lovely to admire and the cherry trees outside the WYCC would provide shade before going in to Rainbows.

I really like the look of the plans for the playing fields providing shade for the children's play equipment. I think the plans are great and I can't wait to see more trees in the village.

Is there still enough space for football, etc., and safe play? Kids love to climb trees.

The playing field needs more trees all over rather than just around the edge - children will need the shade to play, and the games they play may have to change to suit the heat, ie. rethink its current use. Find out what other countries do.

Could there be a joint plan to bring both together to utilise the space?

As children spent most time at school, really need to look at the school grounds and shelter there.

Maybe around the tennis courts - but trees need to not have roots that undermine the courts.

Two suggestions were put forward from Russell Horsey for the playing field.

1. AVENUE OF TREES

We asked: do you support the planned layout of the trees?

Of those who had a view:

35 said YES

22 said NO

Yes, I think it makes good use of the space.

Do you feel that the design includes...

ENOUGH TREES **13 agreed**

NOT ENOUGH TREES **7 agreed**

RIGHT NUMBER OF TREES **30 agreed**

TOO MANY TREES **4 agreed**

I wouldn't object to a few more.

Do you like the species of trees chosen?

Of those that had a view:

49 respondents said YES

2 respondents said NO

Other comments:

Love the ginkgo!

Yes, a trail that children could run through would be fantastic!

I would prefer native trees naturally growing in our countryside, but really don't know enough about the subject.

An avenue will provide shade for the future.

Nice variety, love red maple.

Would like additions for variety as too many cherry would be boring.

I love the design but concerned about loss of open play space.

This doesn't really match what the playing field is for. I think you should go for the other design.

I love this plan but as it is a 'playing field' I don't think it leaves enough open space for games, etc., but I do think it is aesthetically beautiful.

Needs more variety.

Would also like some elms and oaks as large trees.

The playing field should always be for playing. I prefer the idea of trees around the edges. No trees and no paths across the main area please.

It may be necessary to check which trees are suitable to grow on the old quarry site as it is all disturbed soil.

Why aren't there any red maples shown on this proposal?

Red maple is lovely.

More variety.

I am not qualified to comment/criticise - I like the choice of your trees.

The planting of trees through the middle is going to lose space on the field.

Tulip trees would be good (we've got one!) - but affected by drought/heat? Ours lost leaves end July 2022.

Yes, with additions for variety as too many cherry would be boring.

Really liked the ginkgo biloba tree!

Try accessing funding by creating a memorial for Queen Elizabeth II

Do you feel that the design includes...

ENOUGH TREES	17 agreed
NOT ENOUGH TREES	5 agreed
RIGHT NUMBER OF TREES	30 agreed
TOO MANY TREES	2 agreed

We asked: is there another species you would like to see included?

Oak (four requests)
Fruit trees (two requests)
Silver birch
Copper beech (two requests)
Arbutus
Rowan
Hazel
Corsican pine
Mediterranean oak
Liquidambar
Elm
Silver birch (two requests)

Do you want to suggest a significant change to the plan?

Yes, more variety.

No, I would like the trees to go through the middle because it provides more homes for animals.

Avenue could be better if nearer the houses (north) as will be more spaces to play.

Keep a wide area for running/playing around.

2. TREE TRAIL

We asked: do you support the planned layout of the trees?

Of those who had a view:

49 said YES

5 said NO

Do you feel that the design includes...

ENOUGH TREES **17 agreed**

NOT ENOUGH TREES **5 agreed**

RIGHT NUMBER OF TREES **30 agreed**

TOO MANY TREES **2 agreed**

Yes, but with more variety - it's boring having a row of tulip trees and then cherry trees - make that field edge part of the tree trail too. Do you like the species of trees chosen?

Yes, but substitute more varieties.

No, but only because my son prefers the other option - I'm not opposed per se.

Yes, as want more space to play.

Yes, as will leave a larger open area to play in and might make mowing easier.

Yes, but would like more variety.

Other comments:

My preferred option. Provides lots of shade and cover and interest without taking up too much open space for games.

The tree trail would be better for the large communal events that happen.

Prefer the tree trail as long as house's light isn't compromised.

I prefer the tree trail because it provides shade around the outside of the playing field, and it leaves spaces for children to play in the middle.

Need to make sure there is enough space for kids to kick a ball around.

I would like the tree trail design - multiple trees by the West End gate and the trees by the spinney.

This option will provide more 'playing space'. However, shade is going to be increasingly important as temperatures increase.

Is there another species you would like to see included?

Oak (two requests)

Liquidambar

Fruit trees

Rowan

Hazel

Elm

Copper beech

Silver birch

What about an apple tree or a fruit tree? Get kids eating fruit straight from the tree!

Do you want to suggest a significant change to the plan? If yes, please detail:

As a tree trail, it's very half-hearted. I'd like to see duplicate species removed to be replaced by statuesque, climate change resistant, distinctive trees please.

More variety.

Add some red maple.

THE SPORTSFIELD

Do you support the planned layout of the trees?

Of those that had a view:

52 said YES

6 said NO

No, but with some modifications.

Yes, as all around the edge so lots of field space.

Yes, with some being outside of our garden, I'd need to know more info.

Do you feel that the design includes...

ENOUGH TREES **17 agreed**

NOT ENOUGH TREES **8 agreed**

RIGHT NUMBER OF TREES **30 agreed**

TOO MANY TREES **2 agreed**

Not enough. Need lots on the south side to block winds.

Too many trees being suggested for planting.

No, there are some trees on areas that are used for sport.

Probably too many trees for the space and the sports that take place.

I think the sportsfield would be able to take more trees than on the plan.

We asked: do you support the species of trees chosen?

Will football, hockey, grass sports generally be viable in the future?

Planting is all around the outside!

No, I'm afraid I feel the trees are too big and again too many.

The issue is with maintenance costs which at present run into £1000s.

Is there another species you would like to see included?

Gum trees - fast growing and good for climate change

Oak (two requests)

Hazel (two requests)

Fruit trees

Rowan

Elm

Copper beech

Silver birch

Do you want to suggest a significant change to the plan?

Thicker on the south as well as along the road as a wind break.

Yes, bigger trees than field maple.

Yes. No trees! This is an area for sports and currently the trees would impact all sports. They would drop fruits and leaves all over the playing spaces. Maintenance would be of huge cost to the sportsfield (which is a charity).

We would need to consider just planting in the hedgerows.

Yes. As someone who's family use a variety of the sports fields - tree planting can cause problems - roots and leaves damaging pitches.

South and west - fine; north and east - not practical (sorry).

I would like to see some trees but not near the hedges because of maintenance.

Perhaps fewer trees to ensure the fields aren't too affected.

THE EXHIBITION

Fantastic displays and well thought out.

I am so impressed by this exhibition - the layout, the posters, the professional appearance, the variety of levels of information that even the doubters will read and understand.

This is a great and clear exhibition. Well done!

Very impressed with the strategy you have used to engage the community from the onset. The information provided is extremely well put together and so impressive. So lovely to see how you have involved children.

Great exhibition, lots of information well laid-out. Conveys messages well, very thoughtful.

QUESTIONS FOR RUSSELL HORSEY

Query suitability of tulip tree in light of Ann Barraclough's experience.

Query proximity of cherry tree to Dave and Sue's property adjacent to the playing field.

PARISH COUNCIL

Would it be possible to partner with Sulby as I believe they have plenty of space for planting trees?

ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE DEBATE

As you will see noted in the introductory paragraph, 13 young people aged 18 or under visited our display in November.

It has always been essential that Trees for Welford engaged with children and young people throughout this project. It's a sensitive issue and one we have undertaken carefully.

Please see the attached sheet with information from Save the Children on the subject for background.

SCOUT BAZAAR

TfW held a stall at the scout bazaar on Friday 1st December 2023.

We asked: what is most important to you now about trees?

Prevent pollution

I'm not really interested

They suck up harmful gases and eject good ones

Trees are homes for animals

Without trees we wouldn't be able to breathe; they are beautiful

They are a good habitat

For shade

Because they take away carbon dioxide

I like foliage and leaves

Producing oxygen - photosynthesis

Shade

EXPLORERS

TfW also consulted the Welford Explorers group at the YCC on Sunday 14 January 2024, on tree-planting on the Playing Field in the context of climate change. There were 10 Explorers present: 6 boys and 4 girls.

After tree- and climate change-related conversations and information-sharing, they split into two groups to mark on the playing field planting plan the positions they consider the best for planting trees for Explorers of the future. Both plans were variations of the Tree Trail design and one was voted the favourite.

On Monday 15th January 2024, it was the turn of Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

RAINBOWS

Rainbows are 4 to 7-year-old girls; the format of the activity was talking and playing. Thanks to the preparation and involvement of their leaders, all 16 participated actively throughout. They moved around the room to represent the Tree Trail and then the Avenue, and chose the Tree Trail as their preferred planting plan, to have enough room in the middle of the Playing Field for the activities they do now and imagine Rainbows in 50 years' time will be doing.

BROWNIES

Brownies are 7 to 10-year-old girls. Thanks to the preparation and involvement of their leaders, all 13 participated actively throughout. They split into three groups to design their own planting plan. All were variations on the Tree Trail design, to leave enough space in the middle of the Playing Field for their current activities and for the Brownies of the future.

GUIDES

Guides are 10 to 14-year-old girls. Thanks to the preparation and involvement of their leaders, 11 participated actively throughout. They split into three groups to design their own planting plan. All were variations on the Tree Trail design, to leave enough space in the middle of the Playing Field for their current activities and for the Guides of the future.

Some common comments:

- Concern about planting a tree right in front of the entrance/exit gate of the childrens' playground, and the path from Northampton Road
- Concern about feasibility of planting trees where there is a sewer and an old listed wall
- Want shade for the obstacle course
- Keep access to the long hedge where they play "dens"
- Put trees where people can sit all around underneath them for shade and cool
- Have attractive blossom

Appendix

<i>What I like / like best about trees</i>	<i>Why trees are important for us</i>
Breathe out oxygen	Produce oxygen for us to breathe
Breathe in carbon dioxide	We breathe out carbon dioxide and carbon dioxide creates global warming and climate change
Shelter us from the rain	Absorb water from the ground; reduce flooding

Cool – provide shade to shelter us from the sun	Cool – protect us from the heat of the sun
Fruit /nuts for us and animals and birds	We need food, and so do animals and birds
Owls and other birds live there	Provide shelter for the birds we like watching
Squirrels and other animals live there	Provide shelter for the squirrels and other animals we like
Playing: climbing, hiding	To be able to play
Conkers	To play with
Leaves: green; different shapes	Give shade; they are pretty (oak – Guides)
Insects, butterflies	Insects pollinate our plants for flowers and food to grow
Different shapes – tall and thin, wide and spreading, weeping; round.	
Blossom	They are pretty
Feeling the bark (Rainbows)	

NB: Oxygen was the first 'like' of all groups.

Photographs will be available shortly.

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers consultations are scheduled for Friday 19 July and that information and that information will follow in time for the meeting on 25 January.

Helen Dyson

Hilary Hunt

Bill Wright

TREES FOR WELFORD January 2024