

Biodiversity Report, June 2019.

1. Plane tree at Botus Crossroads

Following concern expressed by myself as to the safety of this tree, Steven Harding (Cormac's tree specialist) says that upon inspection the tree shows "reasonable vitality" after being reduced to a 5m "monolith" at some time in the past. He does not believe that it presents a safety issue for highway users at present, but that it might require some management in the future. Paul Allen of Cormac said that he does not consider the ground on which the tree is growing to be part of the publically maintained highway. However, he goes on to say that if the tree did become dangerous in future, then CC "would have to consider taking action."

2. Tree Planting.

The Woodland Trust supplies free packs of small saplings to community groups such as Parish Councils.

- 30 sapling packs cover the area of one tennis court
- 105 sapling pack would cover 4 tennis courts
- 420 sapling pack would cover a football pitch

Saplings should be planted 1-2 metres apart. They come with spiral tree guards. The "Year Round Colour" pack comes with hawthorn, dogwood, wild cherry, silver birch, rowan and hazel. All these are of modest size when fully grown, and provide blossom, berries and autumn colour. Some urgency to decide exactly where the planting should be. At present the only public areas available are the verges along the eastern edge of the A388. Some of these are already relatively easily accessible. Others would need clearing of brambles, and collaboration with Cardinals Hatt. Paul Allen of Cormac has already agreed that these areas of publically owned.

3. Hatt roundabout.

Given that it is agreed that there are safety issues for pedestrians crossing the A388, one option to address those concerns **and** biodiversity needs might be to cut a wide strip running north-south across the roundabout, but leaving the two quadrants either side for wild flowers. Thanks to liaison by Jesse Foot, Paul Allen has agreed to a site visit when he returns from holiday to discuss possible mowing options.

4. Botus lane bench.

Nick Brown has agreed to strim round.