

Notes on meeting with Paul Allen, Cormac (PA); Steve Harding Arboriculture Officer (SH); and Rebecca Dickson, Community Partnership Officer (RD), 21st February 2020.

Present: The above, Cllrs. Dave Edwards, Malcolm Fletcher, John Robinson, Dave Willey

- SH felt that the narrow strip of the eastern verge of A388 south of Hatt roundabout selected by BFPC was not suitable for some of the species proposed, especially birch, rowan and wild cherry. The principal reason being that the proximity to the highway would make them vulnerable to the detrimental effects of salt from Highways' gritters. Hazel, dogwood and hawthorn would probably grow relatively well. However, PA pointed out that even these would have to be planted at least 3 metres from the highway edge. This would leave a restricted area available.
- SH felt that the quadrant of verge to the north-east of the roundabout currently covered in rough tussocky grass would be suitable for planting, as would the wide area of verge immediately north of that currently covered in dense brambles.
- Cllrs asked if it would be acceptable to clear sections of bramble to facilitate planting. PA agreed with the suggestion. We would, however, need a licence to do this kind of work near the highway. R D agreed to forward the necessary application form to Cllr Fletcher via PA.
- PA informed that the use of glyphosate to suppress weeds is not acceptable to CC. SH said an alternative method is to clear a 1 metre diameter around each sapling and apply wood chip mulch. R D said that free wood chip mulch is available from a CC council site in Bodmin, but would have to be collected.
- Cllrs suggested that given CC's commitment to the "Forest for Cornwall" it would help greatly if town and parish councils could have more guidance on pursuing their own initiatives in this endeavour.
- Cllrs asked if a decision had been taken by CC on the proposed "cut and collect" system of verge management. PA confirmed that this had not yet been finalised. Cllrs asked to be informed once a decision had been taken.

Actions:

1. Given that our trees from the Woodland Trust are due to arrive between 28th February and 13th March, it is imperative that we clear a suitable area on the verge north-east from Hatt Roundabout of tussocky grass and brambles as soon as possible. We await the necessary application form for such work from RD.
2. Given the proximity of this area to the busy A388, this preparation work should be done by a small group of **adult** volunteers from BFPC and the Community Action Team (CAT) using trimmers with brush cutter attachments. Suitable safety gear (ear defenders, eye protection, gloves, strong footwear) and high viz jackets should be worn. Personnel need to be identified for this task. A risk assessment should be done prior to work commencing.

3. Equally, the planting should be done by adults only, wearing high viz jackets.
4. Should the trees arrive before the necessary site preparation has been completed, they can be stored in a suitable frost-free location while making sure they do not dry out. They are being delivered to Cllr Fletcher who will ensure these conditions are met.
5. Cllr Fletcher will make the necessary enquiries re sourcing the woodchips from the Bodmin depot.

Cllr Malcolm Fletcher, 24/02/2020