

Billericay Tree Warden News-sheet for October 2020

We hope that everyone is safe and well in these continuing dangerous times. Our Committee Meetings are cancelled until further notice and our fixtures remain postponed.



Conserving Our Tree Heritage
In association with Billericay Town Council

Autumn Project - Barleylands – Tree and Hedge Planting

We have approximately 1200 (one thousand two hundred) whips due to arrive from the Woodland Trust in November. They are a broad mix of native plants. So **Nathan** has scheduled Saturday 21st November for a team/volunteer planting event. A second day of planting may be required. As the rules to social distancing are frequently revised, we will issue the recommended safety guidelines nearer the time. We will probably require several teams of volunteers working in distinct groups to comply with the Government's latest Covid-19 rules/advice. Where there is a will there is a way!

Autumn Project – South Green Village Council (SGVC)

In association with the South Green Village Council and **Nathan**, it has been agreed that two dead trees on the Village Green are to be replaced. The date for the planting is to be Saturday 5th December. The SGVC is providing the funds for the project. It will only require a few volunteers for the event – More details nearer the time.

Autumn Project – In association with the Norsey Wood Society

A planting tree and hedge plant project along the roadside/farmland ditch line adjacent to the entrance to Norsey Wood. Plants supplied by the Woodland Trust. Details to be announced.

Past Project - The Mountnessing Road Tree Planting

The survival success of a tree planting project is very much down to the weather conditions in the months that follow. Long periods of drought following planting can take its toll and we had thought that our Mountnessing Road planting along the raised roadside banks in late February had suffered such a fate. However, **Nathan** did an inspection of the c.200 plants in early September and was relieved to note that although many of the main stems had withered, there were healthy signs of regrowth at the base. This is the resilience of hedges and trees that they have a survival strategy to cope with adverse conditions. And it points to the fact that the whips that the Woodland Trust provide are of healthy stock and of good provenance.

“Perceived Threat” to Two Oak Trees off Greenway – SE Billericay

An alert was recently received from a concerned local resident that a disused garage area off Greenway may become the subject of a gap-site Developer. Land surveyors have recently been measuring and documenting the site. We have inspected the trees and in our opinion they both deserve a TPO designation. So we have prepared and issued the paperwork requesting their TPO status to BBC Planning. Planning Application 16/01293/DEMBAS is outdated but the demolition of the garages was Granted back in December of 2016. At present, there is not a modern Planning Application showing on the BBC Portal.

Basildon Borough Council (BBC) TPO Tree Register

Since our group was formed, we have been unable to check whether a tree has a TPO ascribed to it as the Council's online TPO Tree Register is not in a form that we can use. And they are not keen to receive phone calls asking for such information. Questions have been asked on our behalf by a BBC Councillor for Billericay to see if the Register can be revised for efficient online interrogation. We now have it on good authority from the BBC that the revision will be made but it will be a very long process due to the amount of data that needs to be processed. It will not be a quick fix. In sharp contrast, the Chelmsford City Council's online TPO Register is user friendly, superbly organized and with detailed large scale maps.

Chelmsford City Council (CCC) – An Enlightened Policy

We note that the CCC has a tree policy in place to plant three trees on every residential New Build property in their Local Plan. And over and above that, are to plant one tree for every resident in their district. These will probably be a mix of native and amenity trees to suit the landscaping environment that they are destined for.

Billericay District Residents' Association (BDRA)

News came through that **Christine Wade**, editor of the BDRA, has stepped down from the editorship and the role is now to be undertaken by **Joyce Reynolds**. So it's thank you to **Chris**, herself very much fond of trees, for regularly publishing our articles.

The Billericay Town Crier

We have had a short article on page four of September's issue.

The BBC Planning Portal

Our dedicated team of four continue to trawl their respective Billericay Ward to check for what we consider to be Planning Application anomalies.

“Planning for the Future” & “The England Tree Strategy”

The Government has recently launched two major and radical consultations – **“Planning for the Future”** and the **“England Tree Strategy”** (As reported in a previous News-sheet). The former is a streamlining of the planning rules that dictate the Local Plans with the intention of cutting the “red tape” to speed up the process of house building. The latter is the need for woodland creation, expansion and management of existing woodlands, to combat Climate Change and help the recovery of Nature. The aim is to increase tree planting to 30,000 hectares (74,130 acres) per year by 2025 and ensuring that the right tree is planted in the right place. The tree mix will involve native species and those species that provide timber for industry and thus there will be less need to import timber. Will the implementation live up to the fine words?

Local! - The Essex County Council Forest Initiative

The ECC has recently announced their formation of a **“Climate Change Commission”** that will incorporate a suite of carbon reducing measures across the county. One such will be the **“Essex Forest Initiative”** with a million pound budget (partly funded by the **“Forestry Commission”**) to plant 375,000 mainly native trees across the County over the next five years, equivalent to the size of 210 football pitches. Naturally this is a welcomed initiative but many years will need to pass before the trees have grown large enough to sequester carbon. This emphasizes the fact that we need to protect our existing mature trees that are already performing this essential “natural service” for both people and wildlife.

Global! - The Trillion Tree Project <http://www.trilliontrees.org/>

That's 1,000,000,000,000! Three major conservation organizations have formed a consortium to focus on forest restoration and community forest management around the tropics. **“Birdlife International”**, the **“World Wildlife Fund for Nature”** and the **“Wildlife Conservation Society”** are aiming to plant one trillion trees by 2050. This is big time conservation at a massive landscape level and involves over 100 countries. The tropics are where wildlife biodiversity is at its most numerous. The funding structure is complex. Countries that are participating include Peru, Mount Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Madagascar, Columbia, Atlantic Forests, Sierra Leone & Liberia and more.



The recently trimmed TPO Walnut tree by the Toscana Restaurant just off the High Street.
An aesthetically pleasing result carried out by a professional tree surgeon company.

**Thank you to the Billericay Town Council for providing the BTW
with help and moral support.**

Prepared by the Billericay Tree Wardens [Editor JHS - 02/10/2020]

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