

Agenda Item 12 - To receive a report from the Climate Change and Environmental Working Group.

Report to Council: accessories for Tree Saltash planting, phase 1

To: Climate Change and Environmental Working Group

Background:

Trees and hedging are expensive and remain vulnerable for about 3 years after planting. There are three levels of protection used.

A To get the roots established, the minimum requirements are clear ground 1m around the trunk (to reduce competition) with mulch mat and bark; and support to the lower trunk with an angled post and tree tie (to stabilise the root ball).

B Trees that are at risk of physical damage to their branches or trunk, e.g. strong wind or vandalism, because of their location, should be protected by guards. We have taken as our model the guards used by Forest for Cornwall in Tincombe (and by STC for the Jubilee oak): placing a round 3" stake either side with a cross-bar between, tree trunk held by thick flexible PVC ribbon with a rubber block between tree and cross-bar; mulch mat with covering of bark; and when necessary (e.g. open field site), a spiral guard to protect from rodents.

C Hedging needs minimal support: bark mulch surrounding the stems, and spiral guards with bamboo support, to protect the stems from rodents. This is supplied with the plants.

The trees:

The following 6 trees need level A protection:

1. Library Hub: crab apple
2. Brooking Way: 2x crab apples
3. Prowse Rise: 3x silver birch

The following 12 trees need level B protection:

1. Brooking Way: Gleditsia, cherry, and birch
2. Buller Park: Gleditsia
3. Carew Gardens: 2x crab apple
4. Yellow tor Road: 5x Liquidambar
5. Frobisher Drive: liquidambar

One tree, the crab apple at the Library, was funded by Saltash Town Council.

We are very fortunate that the remaining trees and hedging plants were bought this year by the *Trees for My Place* project (jointly funded by Woodland Trust and Cornwall Council as part of the Forest for Cornwall), at a total cost of over £1000.

Accessories:

Please note that most of the planned trees are on Cornwall Council land. This Summer, Cornwall Council introduced a check-list application form for permission/utility searches etc. We submitted our application on 24th July 2022. As of December, we are still awaiting any formal notification of their decision on granting permission. In November, we had informal word that permission would be forthcoming, so started searching the accessories. This delayed timing has been unhelpful and led to a rush to identify and secure the appropriate accessories – at a time close to the tree-planting season when everything was in high demand. In future years, we shall place orders earlier in the year, and just assume permission will be forthcoming.

For all items, extensive internet searches were done to find sources and compare prices. For all items at least 3 prices were obtained. In particular, the tree guards requiring specifically a 75x25mm mesh to allow movement of branches, were both expensive and difficult to locate: individual guards of only 1' diameter were available at a cost of typically £50 each, and the 1' diameter is inadequate as it restricts tree growth. We have saved money by purchasing a 25m roll and will ourselves cut off the lengths needed. Unfortunately, the only available mesh roll is 50x50mm rather than the ideal 75x25m. This is a slight disadvantage for branches that poke through the mesh, but we (Wardens) shall keep a close eye on this to avoid problems as the trees grow.

In final discussions with Rachel Ackland at Services, it was clear that the existing suppliers to Services were both competitive and convenient: Tudor Environmental, Tartendown Nursery, Bond Timber and Toolstation. The final purchase therefore consisted of:

	Price exc VAT	VAT
Bond Timber: 3" Stakes x24 Cross bars x4	153.60 <u>17.68</u> 171.28	34.26
Tudor Environmental 3"x1" mesh roll PVC ribbon, roll Blocks for the above Tree ties 18" Mulch mats	187.14 27.55 18.24 8.72 <u>24.48</u> 266.13	53.23
Toolstation 1" clout nails 1" staples 4" nails	6.33 3.15 <u>4.74</u> 14.22	2.84
Tartendown Nursery: Bark x 6 bags	55.00	0.00

Miscellaneous posts, tree ties and spiral guards will come from our own supplies, in many cases recycled from other situations in Saltash. This also applies to the accessories used in planting the crab apple at the Library, and the Royal British Legion's commemorative oak at Jubilee Green.

Future plans:

We may incur further expenses for the late-Winter planting season, around February/March 2023. We hope to plant a specimen tree in the green space opposite the end of Beatrice Avenue. This will be particularly vulnerable as students walk past twice a day. Previous trees planted there have not survived. We plan to erect a square shelter using chestnut fencing (recovered from Tincombe); and if the shelter survives more than a week or two, to plant a specimen tree centrally. We have established a link with Venture Scouts who will help us plant trees at Yellowtor Road. Some of them attend the secondary school and we hope to involve them in this planting, to provide some degree of ownership and hopefully protection.

We are already identifying likely sites for Phase 2, in the Winter of 2023, and will continue to work with the Climate Change and Environment Working Group on this. We also hope to liaise with Services, through the Working Group, on transporting water to trees in future droughts.

End of Report.

Adrian White

Tree Warden, 5th December 2022

Details of the next meetings to be held by S.E.A at Isambard House are as follows:

- Wed 1st Feb Rebecca, (her choice of subject:) Community allotment and New plants to try
- Wed 8th March John and Environmental costs of Construction industry
- Wed 29th March Reducing Food Waste (Waterbear film, to be chosen)
- Wed 19th April AGM and Nature in Saltash