

REPORT OF:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
TO:	CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP
DATES:	27 AUGUST 2020

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PENDLE TREE PLANTING PLAN 2020/21

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To outline plans for tree planting in Pendle 2020/21.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Agree the proposed tree planting plans for 2020/21 and recommend these are approved by Policy & Resources Committee when considering Pendle’s Tree & Woodland Strategy.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

To ensure effective delivery of the Climate Emergency Declaration.

Introduction

1. Tree planting remains key to carbon off-setting and features significantly in Pendle’s Climate Emergency Action Plan. Achieving the ambitious target of carbon neutrality by 2030 requires dedicated efforts in delivering well managed and resourced carbon sequestration, as well as carbon reduction, building climate resilient communities and delivering wider environmental goals.
2. In order to meet the national greenhouse gas reduction targets over the next decade, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) calculates that across Lancashire, a minimum of 50,000 trees need to be planted every year ¹. Per population, per head, that equates to a minimum of 3,100 new trees in Pendle each year, totalling a minimum of 31,000 additional trees by 2030. It is proposed that we adopt this figure, 3,100 trees, as our annual target.

¹ [Ribble Rivers Trust](#)

3. Over the last 5 years, Pendle Council and our partners have planted in excess of 1,500 trees on PBC owned land (this figure excludes trees planted on development sites). We have been limited to tree planting on PBC owned sites due to the absence of any resource or scheme that facilitates working with private landowners.
4. Tree planting needs to be considered within the wider context of woodland management as to create sustainable landscapes, the right trees need to be planted in the right places and be maintained to maximise their benefits. As such, PBC's Tree & Woodland Strategy, to be considered by Policy & Resources Committee in August, will set out the principles for effective tree planting and woodland management
5. To date, we have focussed on PBC land for tree planting and woodland creation as these sites are within our direct control. There are still a number of potential PBC sites for tree planting, all of which lie between Brierfield and Foulridge:
 - Hard Platts
 - Land adjacent to Park Lane
 - Chatburn Park Drive
 - Land adjacent to Carr Hall Road
 - Pasture Lane, Barrowford
 - Marsden Park (x 2)
 - Ringstone Crescent
 - Land adjacent to Alkincoates Park
 - Langroyd sites (x 6)
 - King George V playing field
6. Funding has been sought through Forestry Commission for the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCFF) for King George V and Chatburn Park Drive. Both these schemes will be included in the 2020/21 tree planting plan, resulting in over 1,000 extra trees (King George 740, Chatburn Drive 350).
7. Some of the larger sites lend themselves to other funding such as the Countryside Stewardship fund. Others, such as Hard Platts and Ringstone Crescent, are suitable as community initiatives i.e community orchards. (These two sites have also been included in the 2020/21 tree planting plan but are subject to funding).
8. To support tree planting and woodland creation on private land and to engage landowners, Members will recall that Pendle has now signed up to the Lancashire Woodland Connect campaign, facilitated by Ribble Rivers Trust. £30,000 over 2 years has been allocated to support this initiative in Pendle.
9. The ambitious 10-year Lancashire Woodland Connect campaign will create an expanding network of connected woodlands for the benefit of communities across the whole of the county.
10. Ribble Rivers Trust has indicated a number of potential sites in Pendle conducive for tree planting and are in discussions with landowners to progress tree planting schemes. Three of these sites could be included in the 2020/21 Tree Planting

Plan and include a site in Brierfield (via PBC and Barnfield) and two Colne sites. Between them, they can accommodate in excess of 2,000 trees.

11. In summary, as a minimum tree planting will go ahead on 5 sites in Pendle this year, two facilitated by PBC and on PBC land and three delivered through the Lancashire Woodland initiative, collectively generating over 3,300 extra trees. Additionally, two community woodland sites could also be developed, but these are subject to funding. The minimum of 3,300 new trees in 2020/21 exceeds the proposed annual target of 3,100 trees.

Pendle Tree Planting Plan 2020/21

Site	Facilitator	No. of trees	Funding source
King George V	PBC	740	UTCF
Chatburn Park Drive	PBC	350	UTCF
Brierfield (Northlight)	RRT	680	PBC (grant to RRT)
Colne (2 farm sites)	RRT	1,660	PBC (grant to RRT)
HardPlatts	PBC/ Community partner	tbc	tbc
Ringstone	PBC/ Community Partner	tbc	tbc
TOTAL:		3,430	

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: Tree planting and effective woodland management is crucial to the delivery of Pendle’s Climate Emergency Action Plan and the Climate Emergency Declaration.

Financial: External funding is being sought for the PBC schemes. However, existing budgets can be utilised should this funding not be secured for KGV and Chatburn Park Drive. All Lancashire Woodland Connect sites will be covered by the PBC grant allocated to RRT.

The future maintenance of the planting schemes on Council owned land will have some impact on future budgets. The Woodland Trust estimate that woodland in a managed green space costs around £1,050 per hectare per year.

Legal: None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management: Any planting schemes that are adjacent to highways or where the public have access will be required to be incorporated into our tree risk management processes.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Sustainability: Addressing climate change and reducing Pendle’s carbon footprint is fundamental for long term environmental sustainability.

Community Safety: None arising directly from this report

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from this report.