

REPORT FROM: PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY SERVICES MANAGER

TO: CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

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TREE PLANTING IN PENDLE - UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the working group of progress made with respect to tree planting in Pendle.

Identification of sites

1. A report with the list of the proposed Tree Planting site went to the Policy and Resources Committee of Thursday 17th September. It was resolved that the complete list of sites, an area totaling around 30 hectares, be designated for tree planting. The list of potential sites were also considered at the last Climate Emergency Working Group in September. A target of planting 3,000 trees per year was also set.
2. The Committee also resolved that:
 - The Pendle Tree & Woodland Strategy be approved with any updates delegated to the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager. And;
 - That a meeting be sought with the representatives from Lancashire County Council to discuss tree planting opportunities on land within their ownership.

Urban Tree Challenge Fund

3. The Council were successful in attracting funding from the Urban Tree Challenge Fund to plant trees on part of King George V Play Fields, Colne and Chatburn Park Drive open space, Brierfield. This will equate to 1,090 trees.

Lancashire Woodland Connect

4. The funds allocated to the River Ribble Catchment Trust have been paid. We are currently working on a service level agreement with the organisation. It is looking like planting will take place on 2 farm sites in the Colne Committee area and part of the Northlight Scheme in Brierfield within this financial year. We are also hoping that a start will be made on one of

the Langroyd sites and Pasture Lane. Combined with our efforts, we are likely to exceed the 3,430 trees planted that we reported at previous meetings.

5. The partnership between the Council and the Catchment Trust looks as if it will be useful in our aims to try and mitigate climatic change. Our meetings, to date have been very positive for both parties.

Identifying Further Planting Sites

6. The Principal Environment Officer has written out to the Town and Parish Councils in order to identify land in their ownership which could be utilised for tree planting. Feedback has been received from Barnoldswick and Earby so far.
7. An email has also been sent to the Countryside Services Manager and Arboricultural Officer of Lancashire County Council in order to determine if they have any sites within the Borough that could be used.
8. River Ribble Catchment Trust have been in talks with United Utilities with little success. This is on-going and we will continue to work together on this. However, we will also be talking to other major land owners in the Borough in order to try and increase the opportunities for tree and woodland cover.

Impacts of COVID-19

9. The continuation of the COVID-19 epidemic and the restrictions imposed upon us are going to have an impact on the tree planting projects. Both the Catchment Trust and the Council rely heavily on the use of volunteers to deliver the projects. As a result, there may be some delays or alternative ways of delivering the projects needed. It also means that while we have an ambition to plant in excess of 3,000 trees within this planting season we may not achieve this should restrictions continue throughout.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy:

None

Financial:

None

Legal:

None

Risk Management:

None

Health and Safety:

None

Sustainability:

None

Community Safety:

None

Equality and Diversity:
None

APPENDICES

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS