

Summersdale Residents Association

Environmental Report for Committee Meeting January 2022 Tree Planting

WSCC Highway Tree Planting

Since our last meeting, the 5 trees donated by the SRA to the WSCC Highways Donate a Tree Scheme have been planted in, The Drive, The Avenue, and Chestnut Avenue, by the WSCC Contractor, to the usual high standard. A number of other Highway trees have been planted in Summersdale at cost to the council or private residents.

CDC Tree Planting Scheme.

Chichester District Council was just one of five local authorities in England to be chosen to take part in the £2.5m tree planting pilot - to test ways to increase tree cover in rural and urban areas. The funds coming from Central Government, part of the UK's response to Climate Change.

Groups such as Schools, Landowners, Businesses, Community Groups were invited to apply for free trees. The SRA as part of its Environmental Policy applied to take part. Four sites within Summersdale were proposed- Highland Road, Ferndale Road, Maplehurst Drive, and The Croft, all primarily small plots of grassland with specimen trees.

Permission was sought from the CDC who maintain these public open spaces. The CDC recently had reduced the number of times these grassy areas were cut, to encourage an increase in plant and insect diversity. Increasing the tree cover would continue this policy, all be it on a micro scale. After a visit from the Project Lead, Sophie Hamnett, the SRA submitted 4 applications, each for 20 trees for each of the areas

The species of trees allocated to our four areas was chosen on the basis of location and soil type. Each area was allocated 20 trees- Oak, Maple, Hawthorn, Hazel and Yew. Bundles of trees with supports and environmentally friendly cardboard guards were collected early December.

The trees, termed whips, are 20/60cm and bare rooted. They were to be planted 1/5m apart, care was taken to avoid overshadowing of neighbouring properties.

The groups accepting trees have undertaken to maintain these trees for a minimum of 3yrs, growth will be monitored by the CDC.

The trees were planted in late December early January.

Other plantings

The Juniper trees purchased and planted by Ray McGlone are establishing.

A group of trees grown by Sarah Hall (Summersdale Rd) have been planted, aided by RM, along the edge of the field running along the footpath from Fordwater Lane (the concrete bridge) towards Fordwater Road, permitted by the Goodwood Estate. These trees reinforce the existing hedge and tree cover which will add to the Goodwood/ Fishbourne Wildlife Corridor being established.

Ray Carter
2nd January 2022