

Some residents have asked me to help them with preparing a tree planting scheme. The scheme will cover the whole parish. It will identify potential locations for planting trees (whether singly or in numbers) and suitable types of tree, indicate sources of advice and possible financial assistance, estimate financial and operational requirements and advise on management. Implementing the scheme will probably take a few years. When it's ready, I shall present the scheme to the parish council for your support.

As well as enhancing the landscape for both residents and visitors, trees offer many benefits:

- They can help road users by reducing flooding and mud on the road.
- They can help farmers and other landowners by reducing soil erosion and run off of agricultural chemicals which also helps to keep streams and rivers free of silt.
- They can screen unattractive structures and eye sores.
- They lessen the impact of traffic noise; a well-placed tree can reduce noise by up to 40%.
- They oxygenate polluted roadsides; a large tree can supply a day's supply of oxygen for four people.
- They reduce carbon dioxide and the greenhouse effect; an acre of healthy trees can store over 2.5 tons of carbon dioxide.
- They settle and trap dust, pollen and smoke from the air.
- They reduce potentially harmful gasses, improving air quality through lower levels of ozone, carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide.
- They provide shade and water evaporation off the leaves also cools the air.
- They can act as a natural air-conditioner and reduce heat load on hard surfaces.
- They act as windbreaks and can substantially reduce heat loss from buildings in winter.
- They increase the humidity in the air **and recharging ground water?**
- Dews and frosts are less under trees because less radiant heat is lost at night.
- They make the area more attractive to walkers and tourists.
- Trees promote social interaction and the enjoyment of outdoor activities.
- They can increase house values so may sell them quicker than homes without trees.
- The feeling of community pride created by trees can help to reduce crime.
- They provide a habitat and food for birds and other wildlife.
- Decaying leaves promote soil microorganisms and provide nutrients for plant growth.

Several residents have already offered to help with preparing the scheme. Later on we will need volunteers to help with planting.

Paul Rutter
Tree Officer