

Thurston Parish Trees

Paper submitted by Cllr Barbara Morris – Tree Warden for Thurston

Recently I had a very interesting telephone conversation with Frances Jannaway, Coordinator Suffolk Tree Warden Network. The subject of this call, at her request, was about the possibility of starting a tree nursery in Thurston.

Gary Battell, SCC Woodland Advisor, is trying to set up 10 tree nurseries in Suffolk. This venture would be fully funded by SCC, including advice, materials and training. The amount of land required would be no more than half an acre, possibly an allotment area would be sufficient. The trees would be cell grown and do not require a vast amount of space. The free trees I have received during the past two years have been cell grown.

Currently these free trees, which are provided to Tree Wardens as part of an agreement between the Suffolk Tree Warden Network and the Woodland Trust are grown on the Scottish borders. I am not sure how long the free tree scheme is due to last but I think it may be coming towards the end of its term. The idea of having 10 nurseries in Suffolk is to enable trees that are found locally to be grown from seed. It is to be seen as a Community project, trees grown by local people for their locality and possible run as a small enterprise raising funds for the Community.

The land required will be needed to be found, the main requirement being that it has to have reasonable access. One or two areas spring to mind! An allotment on the Hopkins site is a suggested possibility. There would be a number of advantages with this suggestion, water laid on and like-minded people working on their allotments who could keep an eye on the small trees.

From a personal view I would see setting up a Thurston tree nursery as a good move and also as a means of finding a person to take over the role of Tree Warden for Thurston. It is a role that requires some new input as I do not appear to be able to give it enough time. I had in mind to start surveying the trees in Thurston, this I have not begun. Thurston has a number of large mature trees that require to be documented, in addition to the trees that already have some protection with a TPO.

The Tree Nursery could be part of the Climate Change group.

Gary Battell is also offering a tree canopy survey. This is a 'do it yourself' job with a drone, again training will be provided.

FYI I currently have 50+ trees that I am growing on in my garden. These are in the main the free trees I received last December, no longer cell grown but now bare root. I have ordered another 100 cell grown trees which I expect to be delivered November/December. As I stated before the free tree scheme may stop soon so I thought I would get some trees while I could, so they are available wherever and whenever they are needed.