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**Agenda Item 14 – Trees, Hedges and Wildflower offer.**

BMSDC are continuing their free trees, hedging and wildflowers scheme into 2024. The applications are open for areas that both help wildlife and have public access and can be for;

- Individual trees
- Tree planting schemes
- Small community woods
- Hedgerows – both new and improvement to existing
- Community or scattered orchards for retaining local heritage varieties.
- New wildflower meadows or changing mown grass to meadow areas.

The tree canopy survey back in 2022 showed a 10% canopy cover for Thurston and any increase in this will be positive for any biodiversity plans.

My understanding is that a paper was submitted by Cllr Morris back in 2021 detailing “where to plant trees in Thurston” Consideration could be given to updating/using this as a basis for further consideration of an application to the free trees, hedges and wildflowers scheme.

Paula Gladwell