

AGENDA ITEM 10 – TREE PLANTING ON RUSHLAKE GREEN

At the January Full Council meeting the following resolution was made:

00447 It was **RESOLVED** to agree in principle that a tree would be planted on land owned by the Parish Council located next to the Dunn Village Hall to support the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

10.1. To consider rescinding resolution 00447

I discussed the location of the tree with Cllr Davies after providing photos and completing a site visit with Cllr Long. Please see photo separately circulated.

The main concerns with the suggested location were:

There is a power cable which runs directly above the bench which is approximately 17 foot from the ground. There would be a risk that the branches could impede the power line and regular pruning would need to take place at a cost to the PC.

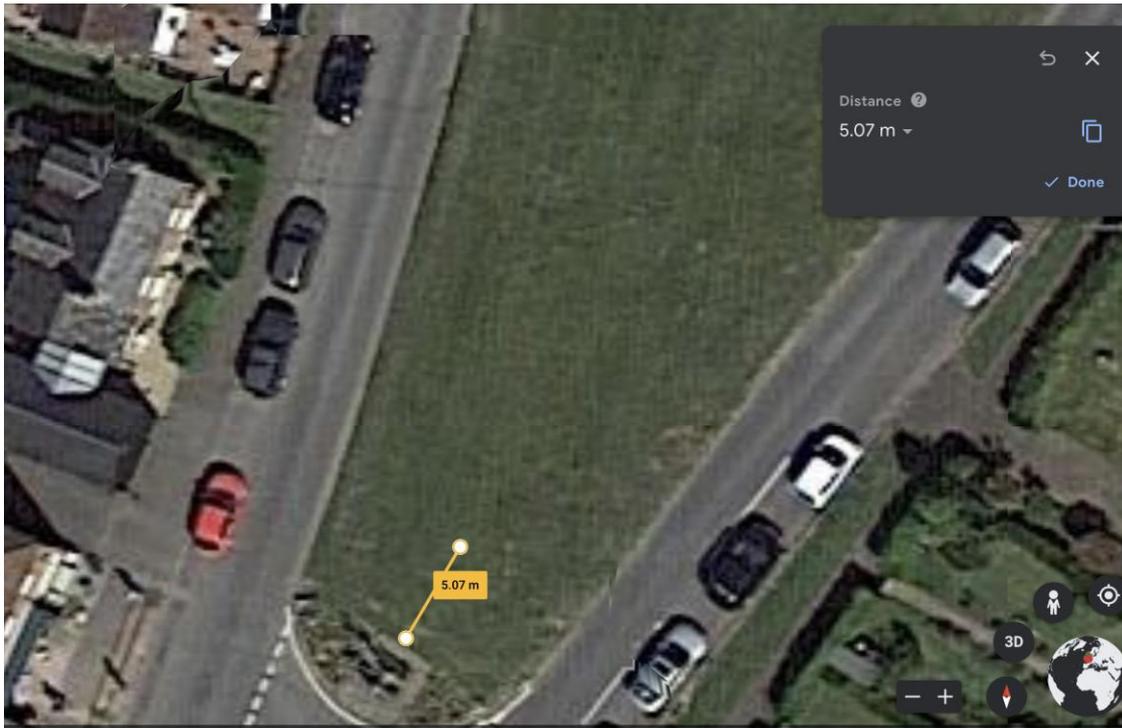
The tree would need to be positioned behind the bench in order to not block the view but there was very limited space to allow the tree to grow – just 5m between bench and pavement approx. There was a danger tree roots could lift the pavement behind over time. The PC would need to be mindful of the safety risk to elderly users of the village hall who could injure themselves if the pavement was uneven. There would also be the potential of pavement repairs at a cost to the PC.

With these two concerns in mind Cllr Davies felt the suggested location for the new tree might not be the best option and an alternative location should be investigated. This means the PC would need to agree to rescind resolution 00447.

10.2. To consider the alternative locations

Please see separately circulated map showing the two alternative locations.

One of the alternative locations is on Rushlake Green Village Green. The tree would be planted approximately 5m north-east of the village sign on the green (this is also near the village noticeboard). The green is approximately 12m wide at this point allowing a tree to grow relatively unencumbered (therefore 5-6 metres all around). It would not interfere with services (overhead powerlines) which are 20m+ away.



By planting a tree at this end of the green it should not obstruct the needs of any future hirers of the green. It is also not directly in front of anyone else's property unlike the second location. It also means that in the future any potential picnic tables could also be in this area, creating more of a community focus at this end of the green for residents and visitors, or customers to the shop.

The other location is on WPC land in front of a residents property. Although there is enough room in principle, the resident may not want a tree planted directly in front of their house. It would also be between their path and drive access. There is also an overhead line in the vicinity. This area feels less public than the green in terms of people reading the plaque etc.



I have investigated with David Massheder, a Tree & Landscape Officer at Wealden District Council, the Bylaws of The Green and legalities of planting a tree. Mr Massheder also sought advice from planning and conservation officers before responding.

He stated:

The Parish Council can go ahead and plant a tree if they wish on any part of the land they own on or around Rushlake Green Village Green.

There would be no need to inform WDC of actions.

I have requested further confirmation from WDC and ESALC that there are no other legal requirements or authorities that the PC need permissions from in order to plant the tree as it is in an open space.

The conservation area status protects all trees over 7.5cm girth and so once the tree is this size, it means that an application would be needed if any work (pruning etc) is proposed to it in future years. The tree chosen for the site would be of a size where pruning would only be required if it was damaged or for longer term maintenance, not on a regular basis.

The council need to consider both of the alternative locations suggested.

10.3. To agree CIL funds can be used

Please see separately circulated CIL finance reports.

The Tree and associated costs

The original request to plant a tree has come via a local community initiative – The Big Lunch. They suggested planting a smaller sapling on an alternative site on the green. However the site was not suitable – too small. The tree sapling suggested was also small. Whilst less cost wise, it was less likely to make an impact and also more likely to be damaged by being insufficient in size in a public area.

Cllr Davies has had an informal conversation with The Big Lunch indicating WPC are reviewing their request but are also considering a larger tree on an alternative site to have more impact but to also ensure more suitable over the longer term. The Big Lunch were very happy with idea.

CIL funds can be used to support the development of the local area, including local projects including our green spaces. A project to mark the Queen's Jubilee seems appropriate planting a legacy for the future.

If it is agreed the tree would be planted this would be done ASAP to allow it to establish in the cooler season. We could then formally mark the planting of the tree at The Big Lunch in June as part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

Plaque

The plaque costs are as follows:

Please click on the following link: <https://queensgreencanopy.org/commemorative-plaques/> which takes you to the website for the Queens Green Canopy commemorative plaques. From there please click on the following suppliers link:

<https://theworkshopaberfeldy.org/shop/p/queens-green-canopy-plaque-200x145> . The plaque is made in several different types of material. I have spoken to the company directly and the metal spike fits any of the plaques chosen. They confirmed the stainless steel plaque would last longer than the oak.

The plaque and spike cost, whichever material chosen, is £61.80 with VAT and delivery.

Delivery is approximately 2 weeks.

10.4. To agree the type of tree to be planted

Cllr Davies to verbally discuss the following tree options as per the circulated quote.

Size at 12-14 girth will make an impact but also not so big that it is likely to fail. Double staking included to ensure it is supported properly.

Cllr Davies sought advice from English Woodlands for the *Acer campestre* and *Prunus avium*. *Juglans regia* also suggested by Cllr Wells for consideration.

Acer campestre Field Maple

Mature height 7-12m



Acer campestre is a useful small to medium sized tree which is native to England. Interestingly in the Middle ages it was used for making musical instruments. It has gnarly bark which develops as it matures and in the autumn, the leaves turn yellow, orange and golden brown. *Acer campestre* is tolerant of most soil types, although it does do best in rich, well

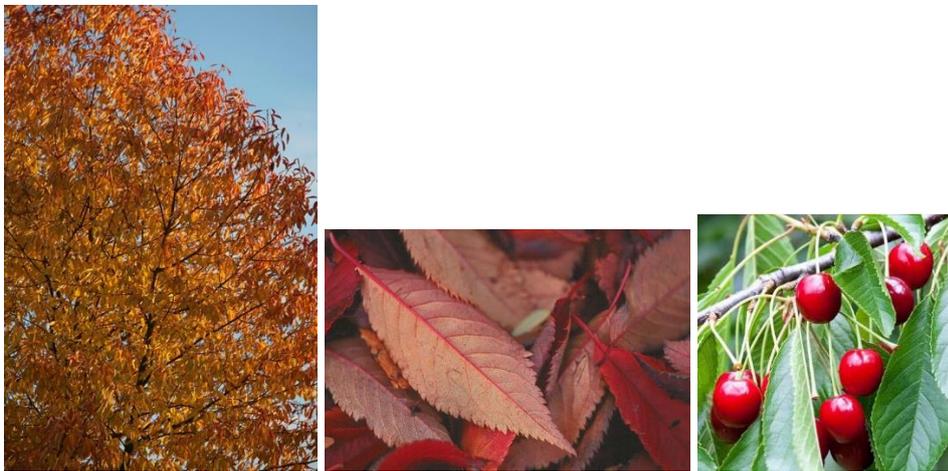
drained soils. As with many of the native trees, it is a tough contender and will tolerate drought, air pollution and soil compaction.

The Field Maple, *Acer campestre*, is also widely used throughout the UK as a hedgerow plant and as such will tolerate regular pruning during the winter period to keep it in shape. It has good ecological qualities making it useful to wildlife, including ladybirds and moths. It provides food and nesting sites for birds and small mammals, making it an excellent tree to extend biodiversity.

In summary: Good bark interest/Good for bees/Native/Looks good in Autumn/Suited to Garden, Parkland/ Will tolerate most soil types /Shape: Rounded /Foliage Colour:Green

Prunus Avium Wild Cherry

Mature height approx. 10 metres



Prunus avium, known as Wild Cherry, is one of our prettiest native trees.

Single white flowers are produced in the spring and its green leaves turn gold through to red in the autumn before leaf fall. Masses of white flowers in April followed by dark red edible fruit. Dark green serrated leaves with pretty orangey-red autumn colours. Being native, it is a great tree to support our range of wildlife.

Summary: Good for bees/Native /Looks good in Spring /Autumn: Colour /Soil type: Well drained, Will tolerate most soil types /Shape: Rounded /Blossom Colour: White /Foliage Colour :Green

Juglans regia

Common Walnut

Mature height 12 m+



The Common Walnut is a large tree produces a crop of Walnuts year upon year. This tree has medium sized leaves that are bright green, turning to yellow in the autumn time, with the nuts appearing in late summer/autumn. The bark of *Juglans regia* is smooth, unlike that of the Black Walnut which takes on a fissured appearance from a young age. At maturity this slow growing, medium to large tree develops a broadly oval crown, spreading almost as wide as it is tall. It thrives in most soils however does prefer that ground conditions are not waterlogged. Although not particularly sensitive, this statuesque specimen does prefer to be planted in positions of full sun.

Summary: Looks good in summer /Naturalised not native/ Larger than other two options over 20 years/Soil type well drained, most soil types/Shape: broad/Foliage Colour: Green/ Fruit and Nut: Nut

Councillors to decide on which tree species.

10.5. To agree the quote for the tree and planting of the tree

Please refer to the circulated quote from English Woodlands who would supply and deliver.

Cost of the tree, necessary planting materials, support and protection is included on the English Woodlands quote.

A quote for the plaque is included.

Mulch for the tree would be approximately £10 or under.

Cllr's Davies's has a contact - NB Garden Services who garden for Cllr Davies and other residents in Rushlake Green. Nathan Bailey has kindly offered to plant the tree in kind as a contribution to the Queen's Jubilee celebrations assuming the tree is delivered to the site. Cllr Davies will assist on the day, time offered in kind too. Delivery will be co-ordinated.

Summary of costs including VAT:

Tree (dependent on species) £227.00

Planting materials and protection £66.58

Mulch	£10.00
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Plaque	£69.18
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Delivery	£19.00
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Total	£391.76
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