

FAO – Lyneham and Bradenstoke Parish Council.

Tree planting project.

Mr Jim Webb of Middle Hill Farm, Greenway, West Tockenham contacted me last year with the offer of allowing the public to deviate from a public footpath which runs across his farmland (Grid Ref 782054) to enjoy a woodland environment made possible by the planting of 105 sapling trees (5 species) obtained free of charge from the Woodland Trust.

To obtain the trees without charge we had to provide evidence to the Woodland Trust that this would be for the community to enjoy and assist in maintaining for future years.

In applying we showed a willingness to offer this facility to a local school in Lyneham to assist in the planting and to make use of the developing Wood for Geography and Biology field studies.

As Jim's land falls within both Tockenham and Lyneham/Bradenstoke Parish Councils we also demonstrated that we would offer up invitations to Parishioners from both Parishes to be actively involved in planting and assisting Jim with the operation of a maintenance plan as required during the Woods development. This we see as a shared commitment which we could agree on and discuss later.

We also plan to have a plaque which would indicate Jim's request to show the Wood was planted in honour of Her Majesty the late Queen Elizabeth. In addition an information board containing details of the trees and potential wildlife would be placed with the plaque at the site.

I am due to meet the Headmaster to discuss the schools involvement in this project however I shall offer him 21st and 22nd April as provisional planting days with the school being exclusive on the Friday which may help in ensuring their safeguarding procedures are adhered to. I would suggest that both Parish Councils provide a minimum of one Councillor to be in attendance on that Friday to foster community spirit. Jim would also be in attendance. Saturday would be an open invite to both Parishes for their own Parishioners to come and plant a tree. Again, if you could send a Councillor that would be great.

We are currently drafting a risk assessment to cover Jim's public liability insurance and finer details of planting/ logistics we could cover as required at a later date.

Kevin Woolnough

Tockenham Parish Council.