

Oliver's Battery Parish Council

All-Inclusive Recreation Ground Project

Progress Report to Parish Council

September 2023

As we move toward autumn, our current Project to improve the Rec moves forward also. Optimum time for tree planting is November, early December.

Here's what's been happening during August.

- I have finalised the list of trees to be planted, and decided where they will be going. Thanks to Tony the Tree Warden for his help on this. The Oak and the Copper Beech which are the memorial trees will be 8 - 10cm girth, which comes out around 6 or so feet high and the rest around 200 - 250cm tall. They will have stakes and tree guards to support them and to deter rabbits, deer and people. There will be a circle around each tree of bare soil, about 3 feet in circumference, mulched with wood chips, that removes competition from weeds and grasses and people. We can also do the watering here more easily.
- Here is a list, with a general indication of where they are going.

- **1 Below the car park going down the right hand side of the gravel path, before the playground.**

Copper Beech, Whitebeam, Whitebeam (the grey green of the whitebeams will look good against the copper of the beech and the other dark leaved cherry around the play area.

2 Far corner of the Rec at the North Eastern corner

English Oak - plenty of room to spread out.

3 Eastern boundary at the far end of the Rec, immediately to the left of the entry to the Wildlife Area, in and in front of scrubby area

Field Maple, Crab Apple, Hawthorn, Rowan x 2, Wild Cherry x 2. These will be staggered along from the fence, to the edge of the scrubby area.

- Simon dug a test pit to see how deep the soil went before we hit chalk. Thanks for his help in this. The pit was around 12 inches. This will be important for siting our Memorial Oak, which does not generally prefer chalk soil. We need to make sure there is a large hole dug and backfilled with good soil and compost mix to give it a good start. The other larger tree, a Copper Beech normally likes chalk soil.
- I have liaised with Callum at Itchen Valley Trees as to planting times and costs. His estimate is on way, hopefully to arrive before Tuesday 5th September Parish Council Meeting.

- Labour for Tree Planting, including mulching and moving a small tree away from the new football pitch, current quotation from Itchen Valley Trees **£TBC**
- Supply of the trees, guards and stakes and ties, current quotation from Mill Farm Trees **£580.95 excl VAT.**
- There will be costs incurred in purchasing equipment to carry out Watering Programme, beginning in March/April. The watering programme is essential and a request for volunteers was included in the current Newsletter. Water Carriers, etc. **Approx costs £300 excl VAT.**

Benches and bins

Three picnic benches (like the ones on the Battery), **approx. cost £2,250** excl VAT.

Three normal benches with backs, **approx. cost £2,250** excl VAT.

Three bins, to match existing, **approx. cost £2,500** excl VAT.

Football Goalposts

Removing exiting goalposts and installing new goalposts, including painting the lines on the grass for the pitch, **overall approx. cost £3,000** excl VAT

Looking at this in table form:

Item	Approx Cost(£) excl VAT
Purchase of 11 Trees, etc	600
Labour costs - Tree Planting	TBC
Watering Equipment	300
3 Picnic Tables	2,250
3 Benches	2,250
3 Bins	2,500
Football Goalposts and pitch line painting	3,000
TOTAL (Approx) excluding labour costs	10,900

LATEST NEWS:

We have been successful in our bid for Football Foundation money to the tune of £549.

The drawdown has been requested but the money will take several weeks to be transferred to the PC's bank account.

We appear to have been successful in our Bid for CIL money to the tune of £10,000. It will be official once it has been ratified in WCC Cabinet on 17 October.

This is excellent news for our project.

***NB** the CIL funding application did not include any planting (this was included in the National Lottery Awards For All funding application, if successful we should have the money in mid-October).*

Recommendations:

To agree the revised planting proposals, subject to receiving grant funding.

To obtain quotations this month for the proposed benches, bins, goalposts and pitch markings.

C M Leach, September 2023.