

## **Oliver's Battery Parish Council**

### **All-Inclusive Recreation Ground Project**

#### **Progress Report to Parish Council**

#### **November 2023**

The tree planting will go ahead as planned on Thursday and Friday, 23 and 24<sup>th</sup> November.

Oliver's Battery Primary School will be making a visit on the Friday, and we will participate in an Assembly at the school in the afternoon, to talk more about the trees.

#### Tree Guards for Memorial Trees

I am proposing that we have larger metal tree guards on the two larger, Memorial trees, for their protection, and to single them out at a distance.

We already have a tree guard that was used for the Millennium tree. This is currently at Cllr Kirkby's house. It would be good to re-purpose it but its current fixings to the ground may need adapting. Cllr Kirkby has contacted Peter Arnold to see if he can adapt it and provide fixings.

I have sourced another, from Designer Metal (195cmx40cm) at a cost of £160 plus VAT plus delivery. Hopefully both the guards can be fitted at the time of planting by Itchen Valley Trees.

If the existing tree guard can be adapted there will be an associated cost. If so, this will be reported to the December meeting.

#### Woodchipping the trees

The trees will be planted with within a circle of bare earth. We can add wood chips to these once we have settled them in. I propose that the Handyperson Group complete this task and will be checking with David Warren about this. It could be possible that the Tree Warden could arrange to have the overhanging boughs at the tennis court chipped and saved for this purpose, rather than taken away.

Woodchip/Bark mulch also available from B&Q, £12 for 100l, say two bags, **£24**. Possibly also weed control fabric £7, say two rolls, **£14**. **Total approx. £38**.

### Watering Arrangements

It is disappointing that the latest plea for help with this in the OB News only produced one volunteer.

I have met with Jackie and David Warren, who run the Handyperson group. They have volunteered to organise the watering from late March 2024. I am passing the names and contacts of volunteers over to them.

I will be making efforts to contact the school, maybe a flyer, maybe something in their magazine to enlist more help. Also Marianne at the church and Demelza at the WI.

I hope that the PC will step up for this challenge and put forward a team. The more people who get involved, the less each individual will have to do! Further suggestions for finding more volunteers are welcome.

### Watering Equipment.

I am in the process of finding a water carrying cart to leave at the Rec for teams to use. It will need to be housed in a secure location. Further details will be in the December Report.

### Benches, Bins and Picnic Tables

David and Brendan are in the process of getting quotes and agreeing a supplier and an instalment date.

### **Proposals**

**To purchase one Tree Guard at a cost of approx. £160+VAT=Delivery for one of the Memorial Trees.**

**To request Tree Warden to save woodchippings from overhanging trees/purchase 2 bags approx. of woodchipping to put round the trees. Possibly also weed control fabric. Total approx. £40 (see costs above).**

CMLeach