

## Tree Planting Opportunities



**From** Richard Parmee <Richard.Parmee@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk>  
**To** BMSDC Biodiversity <biodiversity@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk>  
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Dear Clerk,

As part of our drive to both help biodiversity and the environment, the council is wanting to increase our tree canopy cover. Our [Tree Canopy Cover Survey](#) from 2021 showed us how low the district's canopy cover is compared to the national average.

Trees provide us with numerous benefits, including:

- Providing a food source and habitat for wildlife
- Helping to clean the air
- Moderating temperature – cooling the area around them in summer and helping to retain warmth in winter
- Reducing wind speed
- Storing rainwater – the surface area of a tree is huge in comparison with the ground beneath its canopy, so it can act like a giant sponge
- Screening views
- Carbon storage
- Increasing property values – houses in areas with good tree cover sell for more than equivalent houses in areas with low or no tree cover
- Health and well-being – having trees nearby makes people feel better. Patients in hospital recover faster if they have views of trees from their windows

We are particularly keen to plant more trees in urban environments, where these benefits are often most helpful. However, this is often the most challenging area in which to plant, as space is limited and there are many constraints, such as services (both overhead and underground), visibility, shading of sunlight on windows, concerns over leaves, fruit and safety, and getting permission from the landowner.

I am contacting you to ask for your help in identifying areas in which we may be able to plant trees, as your community will have a better understanding of your local area and where there may be space for trees, along with knowledge of the level of support for tree planting.

We are looking for areas that are on land we own, land owned by the parish / town council, or land owned by others who are keen for tree planting – this could be a community group, school, youth organisation, or a local landowner.

We can look at tree planting via the following routes:

- On land we own – we can supply and plant trees ourselves. You find out what land we own using our online mapping service [BMSDC Webmap](#)
- On **parish / town** land or other **publicly accessible** land – we can provide trees under our [free trees, hedging and wildflowers scheme](#)
- On other land – we can help landowners look into support from organisations we work in partnership with, such as the Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission

At this stage, we are looking for sites where there is both potential for tree planting and local desire to do so – we don't want to plant trees in places where most people don't want them.

We can't guarantee that we can plant or provide trees for all locations. We need to check suitability and constraints to understand if a location is suitable.

Please note that where land is owned by Suffolk County Council and forms part of the highway, tree planting can be more challenging due to the need to obtain a licence to cultivate. Planting on land that we or your parish owns is generally much easier to achieve.

Where we can plant trees, we need to understand what species may be suitable, given the space available and local conditions.

We are particularly keen to plant the following:

- Native species, as these are best at supporting our local wildlife and suited to the climate
- Large-growing, long-lived species, as these will provide the greatest benefits for the longest time
- Fruit trees, particularly those of local origin, as these benefit local wildlife, look attractive, help retain local and old varieties, and they can provide free fruit for local people

For fruit trees, we are keen to support the creation of community orchards, or where there may be insufficient space for planting lots of trees together, we can support the planting of a scattered orchard, with small numbers of trees scattered across the parish.

We would appreciate any help you can provide in supporting our drive to increase canopy cover. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you want to discuss this or have any questions.

Kind regards,

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