Calne Without Parish Council Update on Proposal to establish a Community Orchard

At CWPC full council meeting of 24/07/24 it was agreed by majority that CWPC was to be responsible for the maintenance of a proposed community orchard in Studley gardens. Including annual inspection when required, upkeep, insurance and maintenance.

Please see Community Orchard Paper draft 0.3 for previous information.

Since then the Climate Emergency Working Group have been successful in their application to Wiltshire Council for a Coronation Living Heritage Grant of £2222.96 to purchase and plant 10 apple trees and three plum trees at Studley Gardens. The grant covers costs for tree guards, mulching materials and an oak noticeboard to explain more about the project as well as an initial workshop for volunteers involved on established a healthy orchard & understanding orchards in the landscape.

We also have support from our local WC Tree Waden, Russell Hughes and our application included community events for the future such as wassailing days, apple picking and juicing days and inviting the local primary school, brownies, cubs etc to use it.

There is interest in the community orchard, notably from Derry Hill and Studley Gardening Group and volunteers from Avon Needs Trees and CEE WG would like to promote this project at the forthcoming Wellness & Sustainability Event on Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th October to galvanise further interest. We also have plans to involve local primary schools, brownies, guides and beavers, club scouts and rangers.

WC received applications from: Alderbury, Salisbury, Bishops Cannings, Bishopstone, Melksham, Corsham, Corsley, Laverstock & Ford, Devizes, Downton, Pitton, Rowde (x2), Stapleford, Tisbury, Warminster and Westbury, so there is a great spread around the county. Some of them have applied for equipment which they have offered to share with nearby orchards, so there may be possibilities to take advantage of training or equipment-sharing opportunities.

Subject to your agreement and CWPC signing an Agreement Letter with WC, we will receive the grant of £2222.96 and can begin purchasing trees and planting from Ashbridge Nurseries and Adam's Apple Trees from November 24.

Recommendation: that the Council authorises the Clerk to sign an Agreement Letter with Wiltshire Council for the Coronation Living Heritage Grant of £2,222.96, so that we can begin purchasing trees and planting from November 2024.

Cllr Sue Deedigan
Calne Without PC