



Park Road-- Project Proposal

It is proposed to create a "Jubilee meadow" on the open land at the top of Park Road, as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. This will enhance an existing public amenity area as a habitat more attractive to humans and wildlife.

The site is at the top of Park road, on the right, just before the entrance to the Allington Hill Woodland Trust reserve, and is an area of rough open grass, with a few established trees, sloping down the hill to the east. Two wooden benches are in place.

Boundaries

North

Tarmac footpath (leading down to North Allington), an overgrown hedge and the residential properties Hill Top and Fox Ridge

An electricity substation is in the corner, by Park Road and the footpath

West

Park Road

East

Another footpath, and the boundary walls of the gardens of Mount Pleasant properties

South

A footpath running along the boundary wall of a residential property South Croft

Area

The length of the Park Road boundary is 57m, the width at the centre point is 23m and the area altogether is 0.12 Ha or c.1, 200 square metres.

Ownership

The land is currently owned by WDDC and is being transferred to the ownership of Bridport Town Council.

Management

It is proposed that Bridport Town Council (BTC) manage this area jointly with the Bridport Community Orchard Group (BCOG) with a management agreement similar to that for the community orchard.

The plan for planting

- The planting would be of small native trees, a mixture of fruiting, flowering and deciduous. The area would be managed to increase bio-diversity and encourage wild flowering plants, which are attractive to bees, insects and birds.
- The proposed planting plan preserves the wide panoramic views of the town, surrounding hills and coast enjoyed from the two existing benches. So the trees would be planted along the northern and western boundaries, and in a group in the south-eastern area, near existing trees, to form a small copse (see attached plan).
- Note has also been taken of the occasional use of this area for tobogganing.
- There is a national initiative to plant "Jubilee English Oaks" and it is suggested that one be planted here at the top of the slope and be made a feature
- A planting day will be organised by BCOG with representatives of the Town Council, the Lions and involving other community groups (as for the original orchard planting in January 2009). SUNDAY MARCH 4TH from 10 am.
- The optimum time for planting young trees is during the winter and at the latest by end of March. The intention is to plant the first batch of trees this March, but such a project is ongoing, and creating the wildflower banks, cutting back the overgrown hedge to the north, and further planting, can be done over the coming months (and years) as funding and volunteer time is available.
- Trees and accessories (stakes, guards, and ties) will be bought from local businesses Groves Nurseries or Forest and Tree Care where possible. Other sources may be Wee Tree Nurseries (Wellington) and Thornhayes Nurseries (Cullompton). Field grown trees (bare rooted) will be planted where available. All varieties are native to Britain. Fruit trees will be chosen (with advice from David Squirrel Treewise) for their association with Dorset (also an apple tree called 'Allington Pippin') and for their disease resistance, hardiness and attractive properties of blossom, fruit or tree shape.

Funding

The Lions Club of Bridport are offering generous funding for the costs of the trees, stakes and guards needed, They have suggested a notice board, which would include a record their contribution. The trees could be labelled individually, with wooden nametags, as has been done in the community orchard.

Maintenance

BCOG would look after the trees and a grass-cutting regime would be jointly agreed between BTC and BCOG to maximise bio-diversity as well as public amenity, BCOG are fortunate to have expertise within the committee to advise on this, and the Town Surveyor has kindly offered to undertake this work. Some local residents have already shown interest in being involved.

Public consultation

A letter and the accompanying diagram, will be delivered to every house in Park Road, Mount Pleasant, and to the 3 properties mentioned above, which adjoin the area. Members of BCOG will make personal visits where possible.

Name of the area

'JUBILEE MEADOW ' has been suggested, but further suggestions are invited and can be discussed before a decision is made.

(STOP PRESS : JUBILEE GREEN now favoured name)

Notice board

A small board, of natural wood and rustic design (perhaps by a local craftsman) be attached to the wall of the sub station.

This would record the title (e.g. Jubilee Meadow) the contribution of the Lions Club of Bridport, the ownership by BTC, the joint management by BTC and BCOG, the presence of a 'Jubilee Oak' and the date and occasion. "Queen Elizabeth 11 Diamond Jubilee 2012."

Conclusion

BCOG is pleased to be invited to share this initiative with BTC, and thanks the Town Clerk and Town Surveyor for their encouragement and co-operation. The generous contribution from the Lions Club of Bridport makes the project possible and is much appreciated.