



**Browick Road Community Orchard
Proposal**

GREENING WYMONDHAM

Vision

To create a Community Orchard for Wymondham. A biodiverse place for people to come together to plant and cultivate local heritage varieties and to use as a focal point for community activities such as Apple Day, Wassail, picnics, story telling events and as a green haven in which to relax.

Plan

To plant a collection of 25 to 30 local heritage variety of fruit trees to include apple, pear, mulberry, plum, quince and medlar, surrounded by wildflowers.

Location

An area at the eastern side of Browick Road Recreation Ground has been identified. This proposed area is a small part of the 'Rec' mainly owned by Wymondham Town Council (WTC) and currently used by members of the public to access the Ayton Road car park area and main field from Browick Road via the track down the slope. Part of this area by the car park belongs to South Norfolk Council who have given permission for this project on their land.





CURRENT AREA



PROPOSED PLAN

Practicalities

The area and work can be split into two sections and would be phased accordingly.

The first phase is the upper area adjacent to Browick Road, this area needs very little preparation and is ready to plant.

The second phase being the lower area by the car park and the main Recreation field, this section would need some work predominantly scrub clearance and also soil preparation.

There is a track that services this area, this would be retained so there would be no restriction to current vehicular access, this includes onto the main field via a gate as trees would be planted in positions to ensure full access.

The initial work and ongoing management would be carried out by volunteers, Greening Wymondham (GW) already has a cohort of volunteers but there are also people in the local area who have also expressed interest in being involved in this project. Also Browick Road Primary School have been approached and have indicated they would like to be involved in this opportunity to enhance their local environment, children being the future custodians of this green space.

Timescale

As mentioned the project would be delivered in two phases, phase 1 the upper section and phase 2 the lower section. Although the preferred option would be to deliver the entire project over the Autumn/Winter of this year 2021/22 this may prove to be ambitious due to availability of the specific heritage fruit tree varieties and when there is approval of the project. Therefore the completion of phase 1 this year and phase 2 the following Autumn/Winter is seen as potentially more practical.

Cost

The project will be entirely funded by GW this includes the cost of the trees, stakes and guards, top soil and equipment.

This would also create a saving for WTC as the ongoing management of the area would be performed by the volunteers. At present grass cutting is undertaken by WTC.

Summary

The need for high quality Green Spaces has never been brought into sharper focus than within recent times. The impact of Climate Change, COVID and biodiversity loss has highlighted the importance of trees and green spaces for carbon sequestration, mental and physical health and Nature Recovery, all high on the Government agenda including national and local Government tree planting targets.

Trees and Green Spaces are a long-term endeavour; the Green Spaces we create in the coming years will outlive us, and today's decisions will profoundly impact the country our children inhabit. This proposal will provide Wymondham with a Community Orchard, created by the community for the community, enhancing the Recreation Ground by improving the green space and creating a long term asset creating the kind of Wymondham future generations will want to live in.