



Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council

Consultation Report on a tree planting proposal for Mill Lane and Oakfield

NON-CONFIDENTIAL

Report by: Assistant Clerk
Contact Officer: Assistant Clerk
Date: 6th April 2018
Purpose/Summary: To consider a tree planting proposal for Mill Lane and Oakfield and its associated consultation

RECOMMENDATION(S): -

I. That this Committee receives the Report and supports its recommendations

Legal implications:	None identified.
Financial implications:	None. County Council to fund.
Staffing implications:	Some additional time for mowing.
Health and Safety implications:	Any defects would be reported to the County Council, as tree owners.
Environmental implications:	Beneficial to the local environment, as long as the location and species is appropriate.
Equality implications:	None identified.
Does it support the councils vision and objectives?	Yes. In particular it supports two council objectives it enhances green spaces and the street scene, and it preserves and enhances the environment and wildlife.

Overview

The Council has recently agreed new objectives based on the Neighbourhood Development Plan and its extensive consultation. These objectives centre around enhancing the local environment, wildlife and the well-being of residents.

There are documented benefits of street trees including improving the environment; moderating the climate; reducing air pollution, noise levels, wind speeds, summer temperatures, and ultraviolet (UV) radiation through shading; providing an environment conducive to physical activities; reducing stress; and improving mental health.¹

Following a meeting with Lincolnshire County Councils tree officer, a proposal has been put forward to plant further trees in the grass verges in the parish, in particular on Oakfield and Mill Lane.

This report outlines the consultation which has taken place and makes recommendations for the next steps.

Consultation

A short consultation paper was developed (see Appendix I) which was hand delivered to residents on Mill Lane and Oakfield. Information on the proposal was also included in the Foss Focus, which is the monthly village magazine which is circulated to over 1120 properties in the village (64% of householdsⁱⁱ). These invited residents to comment on the proposal to plant suitable tree species in grass verges.

A total of 19 responses were received (12n by email and 7n completed surveys), with the responses being available in Appendix II.

Results

Overall more respondents were in support than against the scheme. 11 of the 19 respondents were in favour and 8 respondents were not in favour.

Where reasons were given for supporting the scheme these are stated below:

- Visual enhancement/enhance area (x4)
- Positive for the environment (x2)
- Encourage wildlife
- Stops people parking on verges

Where reasons were stated for not being in favour, or where particular concerns were stated, these are summarised below:

- Mess/slip hazard from leaves and blossom which residents will need to tidy up (x3)
- Extra work for grass cutting operatives (x2)
- Obscure visibility when driving if not located appropriately (x2)
- Concern regarding subsidence (x2)
- Roots
- Use of unsuitable tree species – oak, willow and cherry
- Could block sunlight into houses
- Waste of money

Discussion

Overall, the proposed scheme was supported by residents who responded to the consultation. A number of the concerns raised which could be addressed when planning the siting and selecting the species of trees. Proceeding with the scheme would support the Council's objectives.

Recommendations

That the Committee receives the report and recommends to Full Council that it supports new tree planting on Mill Lane and Oakfield, subject to agreeing tree species and planting locations with the County Council's Tree Officer.



Community Consultation

Tree planting in Oakfield and Mill Lane

Working with Lincolnshire County Council, we are considering a tree planting programme on grass verges in Oakfield and Mill Lane, to enhance our street scene. The programme would be based on 'the right tree in the right place' principle, carefully considering the location and type of tree, with guidance being taken from Lincolnshire County Council's Tree Officer.

No decisions have been taken and we want to hear what you think first. Please let us know by completing and returning the slip below or e-mail assistant@saxilbyparishcouncil.co.uk

All comments should be received by 19th March 2018 and summary of replies will be posted on our website at www.saxilbyparishcouncil.gov.uk (Please note that personal details will be removed before results are published). The outcome will be put in the Foss Focus and on the website later in the year.

Benefits of Trees

Economy: Property values tend to be higher on tree-lined streets

Environment: Trees act as full time air filters, cleaning our village

Wildlife: Trees provide food and shelter to wildlife, bringing nature to our doorstep.

Wellbeing: Trees make us feel more relaxed and add character to a neighbourhood.



Name

Address

Comments

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Please return to: Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council, St Andrews Community Centre, Saxilby. LN1 2LP or email your comments to assistant@saxilbyparishcouncil.co.uk

Appendix II: Consultation Responses

Tree Planting	
Mill Lane	Support Scheme?
More trees on Mill Lane good idea. But not outside my bungalow, either side of my home is a telephone pole. A tree would be too much obstruction for my car.	✓
I think the planting of trees in these areas would be a beneficial project to undertake for a variety of reasons, the main ones being the visual enhancement that trees would bring and just as importantly the benefits to our wildlife. I hope the project goes ahead.	✓
We feel that the planting of trees in Mill Lane is a good idea and will be beneficial to the area.	✓
Apart from the benefits of trees already highlighted in your consultation note, I believe that the addition of trees on mill lane will greatly enhance the street view. It would also demonstrate that Saxilby as a community care about the environment enough to take positive action. Mill lane is a busy through route and is the correct road as it will be seen by many and creates a positive image.	✓
Please ensure dead trees are removed first, otherwise a good idea	✓
I've just paid £35 green bin for your leaves, no thanks due to cost [of] upkeep. Roots _ hazard re leaves, I have enough to clean up now. No.	x
I do not wish to have a new tree planted in the verge in front of my house. I already have enough trouble with leaves from the large holly tree in my front garden and the huge Horse Chestnut two houses further up Mill Lane so I don't want any more to have to clear up. Also, surely it will take the village handymen even longer to mow the verges if there are more trees in them. Or will that be an excuse to no longer cut the verges?	x
It could make it more difficult for grass to be cut. Please do not plant flowering cherry trees, they make too much mess	x
All the above benefits noted however many young trees get destroyed long before maturity. In our case we already have a tree on the corner and a telegraph pole, not practical. The names of the roads suggest trees that would be impractical - Oaks - Oakfield, willow - Mill Lane. Avenues have trees, Oakfield where it loops round any trees would obscure the bend and could be dangerous. Finally a waste of money put them on the new estates.	x
Oakfield's Planting	
Yes please. Suggest tree on grass at end of footpath from High St to Oakfield. This should prevent people from parking on grass.	✓
We are very much in favour, anything to improve the environment.	✓
With reference to your recent Community Consultation leaflet, as residents of Oakfield we would very much support the planting of trees both in our road and in Mill Lane.	✓
We think the tree planting in the proposed areas is an excellent idea and look forward to enjoying the benefits of your scheme.	✓

<p>I am personally against tree planting in Oakfield and would prefer to leave the grass verges as they are. My reasons are as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The existing grass has the same environmental and wellbeing benefits as trees. 2. There are plenty bushes and trees on Oakfield at present. 3. Trees drop leaves making footpaths less safe especially in the wet, and look untidy when on the ground even if dry. 4. If the article that I have been reading is correct tree roots radiate roughly the height of the tree in every direction so therefore a tree of 10 feet in height would have a root diameter of 20 feet. The grass verge is roughly 7.5 feet wide therefore the roots would be 12.5 feet under the road/footpath with a chance of lifting the said road/footpaths in the future. 5. Whilst I understand that it does not happen very often would the council be held accountable should the roots damage the water, drainage, gas or cable infrastructure that runs under the footpath. 6. Assuming that the trees would be planted in the centre of the grass verges the centre of the tree would be approximately 3ft 9in from the road. If the branches spread more than that then in effect the trees would narrow the road especially for delivery vans, refuse vehicles and emergency vehicles. 7. Presumably it would cost more to maintain the grass verges as it is more time consuming to cut round trees than just drive a grass cutting machine across the verges. 8. It would be more beneficial to Oakfield to improve the path between Oakfield and the High Street. The path is uneven (no doubt due to the roots of the hedges and bushes lining it) and too narrow in the growing season when the hedges/bushes spread causing people to have to brush them aside to protect their faces and clothes. 	
<p>As a resident of Oakfield with a grass verge, I see no benefit to putting trees on them. As you will be aware in Westcroft Drive trees __ [words missing] and have been blamed for the subsidence as well as the poor soil which covers the whole village, Does the parish council if they decide to plant trees in the area plan to take responsibility for any subsidence to the home in the area?</p>	x
<p>I read in the Foss Focus that if you lived on Oakfield you would be consulted on whether you wanted any trees on the street. It seems only the people with grass directly outside their house have been consulted. I live on the side where there aren't any grass verges directly outside my property. I have spoken to another lady who lives on my side, and she agrees with us, that thank you very much but we do not want any trees on Oakfield. We all have gardens which we enjoy looking after and do not want to fill up our green bins with leaves off trees.</p>	x
<p>I am against tree planting on Oakfield's grass verges. Unfortunately almost all of Saxilby is built on "shrinkable heavy clay soil" meaning any trees pose considerable subsidence risk to surrounding buildings, drains and sewer pipes. Although the Council are liable for the full cost of repairs in such matters, I feel prevention more sensible.</p>	x
<p>Location not specified</p>	
<p>Hello happy to see more trees and planting around the village generally . My only concern on Mill Lane would be visibility for traffic and farm machinery coming through i.e. combines catching the new plantings.</p>	✓
<p>I have no particular objection to trees on Oakfield and Mill Lane. In fact I think it is a good idea providing that they are not going to grow into large trees with expansive roots and which will stop sunlight reaching the bungalow/s and house/s.</p>	✓

References

ⁱ Forest Research (2011) Health Benefits of Street Trees. Available online at <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/infd-8jcejh> Accessed 6th April 2018.

ⁱⁱ Office for National Statistics (2011) Saxilby with Ingleby Parish, Local Area Report, Dwellings, household spaces and accommodation type. Available online at <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=1170215883>. Accessed 6th April 2018.