

Free Trees, Hedgerows and Wildflowers Scheme

From: Richard Parmee (richard.parmee@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)

To: biodiversity@babberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Date: Thursday, 10 August 2023 at 09:50 BST

Dear All,

Over the past two years, our free trees, hedging and wildflowers scheme has help plant nearly 400 large trees, over 10,000 small trees and hedgerow plants, and enough wildflower seed to cover over 12,000m².

We are continuing it into 2024, to help us deliver on our Biodiversity Action Plan, support wildlife at a time when it is under great pressure, and make the district a better place for all.

We are open for applications that both help wildlife and have public access. Applications can be for:

- Individual trees
- Tree planting schemes – street trees, a copse, an avenue
- Small community woods
- Hedgerows – both new and improving existing ones, especially where they help bridge gaps in the landscape
- Community or scattered orchards – we are keen to help retain our local heritage varieties and provide a source of free fruit for the local community, as well as helping wildlife
- New wildflower meadows, or changing short mown grass into a meadow area

We want to increase tree canopy cover across the district, currently well below the national average. We also want to help get 30% of our land managed for wildlife by 2030 (30 by 30 national initiative). We are doing what we can on the council's land, but need help on other land to be really successful. This can include parish land, school grounds, recreation grounds, land open to the public regularly, millennium greens and community spaces. If in doubt, ask.

If you have a site or sites you want to do something on to help wildlife, or know of groups within your area that may want to get involved (schools, environmental groups, community groups, charities, etc.), get in touch with us or feel free to pass this on to others.

Details on the scheme, along with the application form, are available here:

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/planting-schemes/trees-hedgerows-and-wildflowers-scheme/>

We can provide all plants and protection (canes, stakes, ties and tree guards). Please note, we cannot provide labour or cover the cost of planting and watering afterwards, but we can give advice on how to plant and look after the scheme. We may also be able to help find volunteers to help with the planting.

We are here to help give advice on any application, and you are welcome to ask questions ahead of applying – we want to make it as easy as possible for you to make a difference!

Regards,

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