

Proposal to: The Charities and Trusts Committee, Staffordshire County Council
From: Dosthill WI
Date: 15th October 2019

**The Broom, Dosthill, Tamworth, Staffordshire
Proposal for a Community Orchard**

Proposal

To plant and maintain a community orchard in The Broom, Dosthill, Tamworth, Staffordshire, on the site of a previous community orchard, some 45 years ago.

Background

For many years, the Dosthill community has worked together and with partners (including Tamworth Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council) to maintain and enhance The Broom for our use and enjoyment.

We have worked in partnership with Tamworth in Bloom since 2017 and this year, entered the Heart of England in Bloom It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN) campaign for the first time and we were delighted to be awarded *Level 4, Thriving* (out of five levels). Our Judge for IYN (Paul Ash) was advised that, subject to the necessary approvals, we hoped to have a community orchard installed in The Broom this year.

Please see attached background note for further information on our work in The Broom.

Trees

The following APPLE varieties are proposed (one of each, totalling 18 trees):-

Ashmead's Kernel	Beeley Pippin	Bramley Seedling	Charles Ross
Core Blimey	Dumelows Seedling	Hereford Russet	Ingrid Marie
James Grieve	Keswick Codlin	Little Pax	Lord Lambourne
Pink Glow Crab Apple	Red Devil	Scrumptious	William Crump
Wyken Pippin	Worcester Pearmain		

These trees are all rootstock grafted, disease free, low maintenance varieties and branches will not need pruning for three years minimum.

Planting

Each tree will be planted in a two feet square with a 1.8 metre tantalised tree stake, belt tie and protective spiral tree guard. The ground roots will be covered and pegged with Mypex fabric, with 100mm depth of coarse bark.

Site

The trees will be planted in a sunny position which doesn't get waterlogged – please see the 18 black dots on the attached plan. The apple trees need to be planted close together for pollination.

The plan attached also shows the location of trees (green dots) which have recently been granted a Tree Preservation Order (No 6 2019) by Tamworth Borough Council, following our request.

Maintenance

In Dosthill, we are fortunate to have lots of groups, families and individuals who help to maintain and develop The Broom, including the Dosthill and Two Gates Residents' Association, Footsteps (nursery) Gardening Club, Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows. The District Commissioner of Guides has asked if the Dosthill Troop can help as part of their community badge and at future harvest times, pick, cook and juice the fruit (under guidance).

We also have a monthly Task Group where people help to litter pick, clear, prune, plant etc. Maintenance of the community orchard (including the grass cutting between the trees etc.) will be picked up by these groups.

Funding

The purchase of the apple trees will be fully funded by members of the Dosthill WI and maintenance will be as described above.

Consultation

- a) Those with gardens which next to the site have been consulted and have no objections. They have also said that the orchard will enhance the site and be excellent for the community.
- b) The planning application for the new classroom block at the Dosthill Primary Academy has now been lodged and out for consultation. The proposed location for the community orchard appears to be unaffected, however the building works will prevent us from maintaining the lower end of The Broom, which we are trying to clear and reinstall Public Footpath number 80.

We hope that this note provides all the information needed for the Charities and Trusts Committee to approve the installation of a community orchard in The Broom, Dosthill. We need to plant the trees as soon as we can now. Many thanks.

Sue Hollis
Project Manager for The Broom