

1 Million Trees for Norfolk Update:

Applications and offers of support for tree planting as part of Norfolk County Council's ambitious plan to plant 1 million trees will open in May. At this time, we will encourage landowners to step forward to establish, nurture and maintain trees and hedges to deliver lasting benefits for the environment and Norfolk.

Each County Councilor will have budget to spend on tree and hedge planting to support this great initiative. Where possible we aim to make this funding stretch further by working with partners. We have been linking up with the Woodland Trust, The Tree Council, Defra and the Forestry Commission to get a range of planting offers for the coming year.

We will ensure that the right trees are planted in the right place for the right reason. We will match the planting that communities want with the best funding sources, so that we can deliver as much planting as possible; at all scales from individual trees, gapping up existing hedgerows, up to the creation of large woodlands

As well as reducing the amount of plastic and herbicide used to establish trees, we will be asking communities to help us remove redundant plastic from old planting schemes so that it does not enter the soil and food chain.

Until we open up offers for tree planting in May, we welcome suggestions on the type of planting landowners and particularly community groups would like to carry out. So far, we have received a wide range of suggestions, such as planting more trees within hedgerows, setting up community tree nurseries and planting more roadside hedges to reduce snow drifts.

To help you understand your local area better we have produced a new map, The Tree and Hedge Explorer which shows all the trees and hedges across Norfolk. It is possible to overlay old historic maps onto this so that you can see where hedges, trees and woodlands used to be and how the trees can connect landscapes. Please use this mapping to find out more about your area and help you plan where planting could have the most benefit and link with neighbour's trees and hedges.

More than 24,884 tree and hedge plants have been planted to date on parts of Norfolk's County Farms estate to increase tree cover and improve the condition of hedges. The tree planting includes Elm trees resistant to Dutch Elm disease. The hedging plants have been planted in biodegradable spiral guards into jute matting to make sure that the plants get off to the best start and to reduce plastic and herbicide use.

To find out more about NCC's planting ambitions and strategy please visit <u>1 Million Trees for Norfolk - Norfolk County Council</u>. If you would like to get in touch please email Tom Russell Grant at <u>tree.planting@norfolk.gov.uk</u>.



Bradwell Community Tree Planting (copyright Ed Stocker, NCC)