

Update for CA&OS February

WWPC Tree Planting Initiatives

Ongoing maintenance – Grounds Team Actions

Trees planted in the last 6 years under grant award. We have a responsibility for these to be well maintained with the original planting numbers remaining the same (replant any failed saplings). Great Western Community Forest do inspections to ensure we are fulfilling the terms of the grant funding. We can be fined or asked to repay full cost if we don't meet these. Agreed at CA&OS that ongoing tree maintenance to be completed 'in house' with the exception of Year one 'beat up costs' for VE Day planting. One GT member to receive training in tree care and maintenance 'on the job' (early Feb 2026 with Southern Forestry). Orchard pruning training session planned for later in the year.

Belmont Green VE Day planting – Planted October 2025

Consists of avenue of flowering cherries leading to single oak tree, improved hedgerow planting to the western border of North Wroughton Playing Field and orchard planting adjacent to oak tree. Scheme also includes two new benches and a wildflower strip to be introduced opposite cherry orchard.

GT - To be actioned Feb/March/early April 2026

- 1000 bulbs/plugs for underplanting the Flowering Cherry Avenue and around the Memorial Oak. Turf strip and strip/plant wildflower meadow area. Signage and info by AW
- Look at ordering schedule and agree delivery timescales. Bulbs in the green – Feb delivery – immediate planting. Plug plants arrive April. Wildflower seeds strip turf to prepare for planting in early April.

GT ongoing maintenance for VE Day Planting at Belmont including wildflower meadow, orchard trees, hedgerow. **Watering of all new trees and hedgerow planting.** Year one (this year) every month from April to Sept 2026 – for year one only. Hand weeding and mulching June and Sept. Remove litter in tubes, repair stakes if needed. Get a stock of stakes and guards.

Establishment Yr 2,3,4,5 – 0.5days per year (June and Sept) to undertake the hand weeding & 0.5 days/year for stake, guard, mulch maintenance for trees (estimate).

From year 2 will also need to do Hedgerow maintenance, weeding mulching etc which is likely to be minimal. Winter dormancy for pruning is Nov – March. Weeding needed so that saplings are not choked. Care with strimming – some saplings at Belmont/Falkirk/Maunsell damaged this time when GT strimmer cord has gone under the tree guard.

Orchard planting pruning May and July

Secret Garden Planting – Keith M/GT to check that no dead trees or large gaps in planting. Also to check that shrubs/hedgerow planting weeded, maintained and mulched. Will be reviewed as part of early Feb visit.

Maunsell/Falkirk/Belmont 2022 planting

Weeding completed by GT Nov 2026, needs to be done twice a year June and Sept for Belmont, Maunsell and 2022 Falkirk trees. June and Sept - Mulch maintenance, guards need to be replaced and stakes replaced, saplings kept upright. Regular removal of any litter inserted into tree tubes to be scheduled. Advise of any trees needing replacing with annotated photos. WPC Office to arrange for replacement stakes/guards on request. Discuss easiest way of doing this e.g having a stock in of them? GT to replace dead trees annually. Orchard trees will need to be pruned.

Wharf Road planting – ongoing maintenance of newly planted hedge. Cordoning if required. AW can do signage and comms if required.

Actions Arising – all agreed

AW confirm with Keith training day next week – Tuesday. Meet at 8am Maunsell Way.

AW offered to put tasks on i-auditor – Rich prefers to use the scheduling board so will sort this. EF will add to schedule of works spreadsheet.

AW obtain spend approval to purchase some stakes and shelters in readiness.

AW to arrange orchard pruning training later in the year

AW to place order for bulbs, seeds and plugs – bulbs in the green before half term.

AW will prepare comms and signage for the public regarding wildflower planting.

AW to get spare stakes and guards for GT use.

AW to discuss office 'Tree Lead' role with EF to ensure best use of resources and joined up working.

AW to do comms to the public – pick litter out of tree tubes when you are out on walk.

RH to ensure James & Zee will attend one day tree training/shadowing next Tuesday 3rd Feb, meet at Maunsell Way 8am

RH to allocate persons for training next week.

RH to scope long arm bulb planter at B&Q this week. Advise AW urgently if she needs to buy two online.

RH to brief team about ongoing tree maintenance and care role now being taken on by the GT and appoint a lead role (may be best to be the person who attends Feb tree care training).

RH to add all tasks listed above for each site, with frequencies onto GT year planner. Rich will update AW on when items are completed so that she can proactively update Great Western Community Forest Team twice a year.

RH to plant wildflower bulbs in Feb (scatter effect, not regimented) under tree canopy area but not in main avenue.

RH to prepare sites with turf strip (arrange hire please) for wildflower seed planting early April and also to plant wildflower plugs in April. RH to arrange for bark chip etc for mulching to be available when required. Also cable ties etc.

RH will check that one storyboard is available for public comms at Belmont Green. Also sort out another sign (for AW to decorate?) to be displayed at Wharf Road hedge.

RH to cordon/wire/protect new planting at Wharf Road from people walking over it.