

From: [Clerk Eckington Parish Council](#)
To: [Cllr Andy Dye](#); [Cllr Carl Harper](#); [Cllr Carolyn Renwick](#); [Cllr Catherine Tite](#); [Cllr Clive Hunt](#); [Cllr David Landall](#); [Cllr Ian Tagg](#); [Cllr Jackie Boyce](#); [Cllr Jacqueline Ridegeway](#); [Cllr Jane Marsh](#); [Cllr Jennifer Archer](#); [Cllr Jeremy Kenyon](#); [Cllr Joan Ibbotson](#); [Cllr Kyle Boyer](#); [Cllr Oscar Gomez-Reaney](#); [Cllr Philip Wheelhouse](#); [Cllr Philippa Allan](#)
Subject: Community Orchards and Vegetable Growing Areas
Date: 09 November 2021 16:02:00
Importance: High

Dear Councillors,

Please find below a proposal from Cllr Kenyon in which I would like to use my delegated powers to move forward. Could you let me know by Tuesday 16 November if you have any hesitations regarding the proposals made.

If I do not hear from you by the 16 November I will assume you are in favour of this proposal and will proceed and ratify at the next FC meeting.

Thanks Emma

Proposal

We have been offered an exciting opportunity to work with the charity OnePlanetMatters to set up some small community orchards (10-15 fruit trees each), and a vegetable growing area. Due to the need to purchase the trees in the next few weeks, we need to make a quick decision in principle, with details of exactly what goes where to be agreed in the next few weeks.

The Charity do the work of maintaining these orchards and veg areas, on pieces of unused land.

They work with schools and groups to maintain and harvest the produce, and distribute it to a mix of places such as old folks homes or families in need, as part of their "Growing Communities Network".

We are looking at four locations for various initiatives. Two are Parish land and two are District land.

A. Marsh Lane Field. Currently we have a field where we have cut the grass to create a usable area for the kids and local school. Around the edge it has been left wild, and is currently scrub grass. The goal is to use some of that scrub area to create a community orchard and also a small coppice of trees. The details would be agreed before proceeding, and I have strongly emphasised (for all four sites) that it must not cause any shading issues with nearby residents, or our allotments.

B. Renishaw Golden Ball. There is a grassed area behind the changing rooms, going down to the Co-op car park. This could be used for a small community orchard, and also some vegetable growing beds. It would not interfere with the football pitch. To support the veg beds would need a water supply from the changing rooms. That could be as

simple as an outside water butt, and an internally turn-offable tap to fill it periodically.

C. The small cut grass field above the garage site off Duckett Lane, between Ducksett and William. This would be used for a small community orchard. This is NEDDC land, so its not directly for Parish to support. The land is sloping, so not used for ball games.

D. The field between Osmund Road and Ravencar road. This is a large field, with an informal football pitch at one end. The goal is for a small community orchard (not interfering with the pitch), maybe down at the narrow end of the field, though there is space at the top end also.

From both a community and a biodiversity viewpoint, this seems like a great way to make better use of some of our green space. Currently the sitea are grass, which requires mowing, and has little biodiversity. Fruit and veg growing will:

- Increase biodiversity
- Support bird and insects
- Provide a nicer more interesting environment for residents
- Provide fresh fruit and veg for those most in need
- Raise awareness of climate matters with residents and children in particular

Before any planting is done, layouts of each site would be produced and agreed.

The costs to Parish will be under £600 for our two sites. Also we should be able to apply for a Community Action Grant to fund the majority of this.

Are Councillors happy to proceed in principle with the community orchard part of the project, subject to the detail of what goes where being decided in the next few weeks?

Also are Councillors happy for us to apply for a Community Action Grant to help fund the project?

The veg growing area at the Golden Ball is not so time critical, and will need more work and costing, as we may want to for example put in a firm path for wheelchair access (which could be a good thing for e.g. the Landmarks folks who now rent out Renishaw Community Hall), and the water supply.