

CREDENHILL PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT CREDENHILL COMMUNITY HALL ON 1st DECEMBER 2021

PRESENT:

Councillor Miss. Jenni Hurcomb Chair (JH), Councillor Mr. Martin Leaton Deputy Chair (ML), Councillor Mrs. Dot Pullen (DP), Councillor Miss. Rebecca Norton (RN), Councillor Mr. Andrew Slater (AS), Miss. Deanna Pennington (DE), Councillor Mr. Paul Warrington (PW), Councillor Mr Paul Beechey (PA).

Parish Council Clerk/RFO – Mr. Lee Harper-Smith (Clerk)
10 Members of the Press or Public present.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30 pm.

EXTRA ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence - To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Councillor Mr. Paul Burrridge (PB), Councillor Mr. Terry Smissen (TS), Councillor Revd. Rana Davies-James (RD), Ward Councillor Mr. Bob Matthews (BM).

2. Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

- 2.1. No declarations of interest in agenda items from Councillors received.
- 2.2. No written applications for dispensation from Councillors received.

3. Public Question Time

Opportunity for members of the public to raise issues or ask the Parish Council questions.

The chair welcomed those present and confirmed that the council had arranged the meeting following concerns raised by several residents about the proposed planting of trees in the Roman Park and whilst the locations of the trees had been resolved in January that she was keen to hear the concerns and work towards a compromise. The chair invited members of the public to share their concerns.

Sandra and Colin Cheasley, Number 42 Glebe Close - raised concerns about lack of consultation, loss of light, loss of view, loss of privacy. Did not want trees planting 10m from the boundary. Raised questions about maintenance plans and risk management of existing trees. Suggested a coppice at the top of the park and a row next to the coal yard.

Beryl Reece, Number 44 Glebe Close – Concerned people would walk too close to the properties if an avenue of trees is planted. Does not want trees planting behind her property, maybe a coppice at the end of the park would be more suitable.

Roger and Carol Taylor, Number 43 – does not want a wall of trees planting to the rear of their property having just removed their hedge to let more light in to the garden.

Wilf, Number 39– I have 60ft Ash that is planted too close to my property which blocks the sunlight, planting more trees along the properties will cause more problems.

Karen, Number 41– Concerned about debris from the trees clogging up the drains causing more potential flooding, unhappy about the size of the existing and proposed trees. Suggested other smaller varieties as a compromise.

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Jamie Dover, Number 48 Glebe Close – disappointed with the lack of consultation however has provided an alternative plan (see report at the end of the minutes). Does not want his view obscured by trees. Raised concerns about loss of light and quoted the Right to Light Act and Heigh Hedges Act.

Sallie & Richard Francis, Number 46 –Supported comments made by other people present, nothing more to add.

4. To review and agree the planned location of the 15 Trees to be Planted in the Roman Park

The Parish Clerk advised the Council and members of the public about the present situation with Neighbourhood Development (New Housing):

At present Credenhill is behind where it needs to be in terms of delivering new properties, these targets are set by Government and cascade to Parish Councils through the County Council. The Parish does not have an NDP in place therefore Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy is the policy which takes effect. See below breakdown:

- Proportional growth requirement - 149
- Built 2011-2020 – 18
- Commitments at April 2020 – 72 (includes Orchard House 67 – not yet approved)
- Residual – 57 (100 Adjacent to the school would achieve this – not yet applied for reserved matters.)

At present there are 2 large developments planned for the Parish; 67 at Orchard House and 100 next to the School, both have received outline permission but are yet to complete reserved matters. If either development fails then alternatives will need to be found before 2030, if both are successful then the next stage of housing supply will need to be set for 2040 and Herefordshire Council will need to work with developers to establish the best possible sites within our Parish.

The Roman Park is a brown field site, there are Covenants on the Land set by the previous owners that restrict the use to Sports and Recreation however the previous owners have the power to reverse this in conjunction with Herefordshire Council's power to compulsory purchase land when a need is identified. The previous owner also owns land adjacent to the Roman Park between it and the Yazor Brook on flood plains which are not suitable for housing however would be suitable for an Open Space (like King George Playing Fields in Hereford City).

The National Planning Policy Framework allows for open space to be built on under the following circumstances:

99. Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.*

Source https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf

Herefordshire Council's Core Planning Strategy Document includes the following policies about existing trees and hedgerows:

LD1 - maintain and extend tree cover where important to amenity, through the retention of important trees, appropriate replacement of trees lost through development and new planting to support green infrastructure.

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LD3 - identification and retention of existing green infrastructure corridors and linkages; including the protection of valued landscapes, trees, hedgerows, woodlands, water courses and adjoining flood plain;

Source: https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/123/adopted_core_strategy

Planting trees and ensuring that the Roman Park is of significant benefit to the Parish; not one that can be easily replaced by another, will protect the park from being selected in the next supply of land for housing development.

By planting trees you are securing sections of land from development as planning policy (LD1 & LD3) ensures that they are not removed by developers so should we fail to keep the park as a public open space in the future the existing trees (and any proposed or added now) will protect the Roman Park against over development. Newly planted trees in 10 years or so will not be of significance under these policies, they would need to be of 15 years plus old to gain that status, so planting them now would come under these policies.

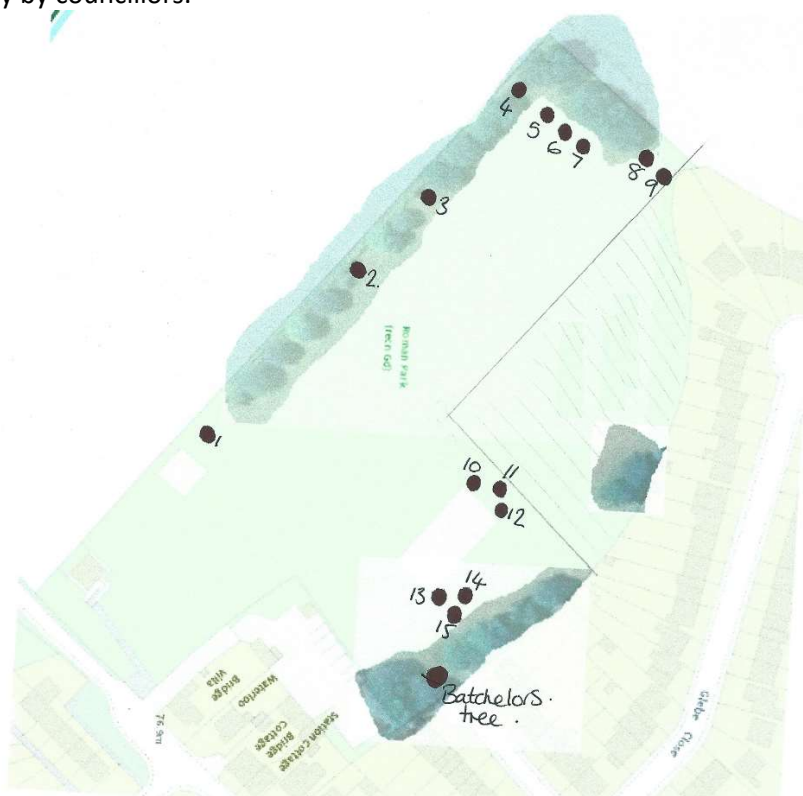
The chair thanked the clerk for this information and opened the floor to councillors.

It was noted by ML that the tree planting had been on the agenda and in the CCN a number of times since it was agreed in January 2021 and no residents had raised concerns or asked for more information about the projects, no members of the public had attended any meetings to discuss the tree planting.

The chair confirmed that no complaints about existing trees in the Roman Park had been received previously and that the Parish Council has an active routine of tree maintenance.

Various discussions took place about the alternative options available, and it was agreed that on this occasion no trees would be planted behind the properties other than the 2 in the north corner (8 & 9 below) which had been agreed by the resident at number 48.

It was **resolved** by PW and Seconded by DP to plant the trees as per the below revised plan, this was supported unanimously by councillors.



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5. Public Question Time

Further Opportunity for members of the public to raise issues or ask the Parish Council questions.

The chair invited those present to join the Parish Council as we currently had 3 vacancies and we were keen to get somebody from Glebe Close involved particularly as much was planned for the Park in the coming years.

The chair reminded residents that the Roman Park is discussed at each meeting of the Parish Council and it was advisable to keep an eye on the agenda, which is available on the notice board and website prior to each meeting.

No further matters raised.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 20:50.

Councillor Miss Jenni Hurcomb Chair

Signed.....

Date.....



Roman Park Credenhill

Review of Tree Planting Project 2020-21

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Background

In January 2021 the Parish Council approved the below indicative planting scheme for the Roman Park in 2021:



Advice on varieties was later received from a Tree Advisor, Mr J P Ross B.Sc. (Hons) F.Abour.A an Arboriculture Consultant and Co-chair of the Herefordshire Tree Forum (see Appendix 1). From this advice the following varieties were selected:

Species	Common Name	Type	Stem Details	Qty
Tilia cordata Greenspire	Small Leaved Lime	Bareroot	8-10 cm Clear Stem	3
Betula nigra	Black “River” Birch	Bareroot	8-10cm Clear Stem	3
Acer campestre	Field Maple	Bareroot	8-10cm Clear Stem	3
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore Maple	Bareroot	10-12cm Clear Stem	3
Castanea sativa	Sweet Chestnut	36L Container	8-10cm Clear Stem	3

The Tree Council Grant Application (Appendix 2) was submitted using these details having been approved at the October 2021 Parish Council meeting.

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The Tree Council queried the Archaeology onsite and following discussion with Herefordshire Council it was agreed that the holes would need to be overseen by the Archaeology Team, there would be an additional cost of £300 for this service. It was agreed that this fee would come from the Roman Park budget.

During early November the application was accepted by the Tree Council and funding awarded for £1402.54 based on the submitted planting scheme as agreed in the January 2021 meeting.

The Parish Clerk placed the orders for the trees, guards, posts and associated items listed in the application and organised a tree planting event on 4th December with the digging to take place on 3rd December with the Archaeologist Team from Herefordshire Council present. All young groups that were listed in the original document were notified of the event.






Our event ties in with national tree week and launch of the Queens Canopy (Plant a tree for the Jubilee).

Due to stock changes at Wyevalley Nursery the *Castanea sativa* was no longer available, and it was agreed following consultation with the Tree Council that *Fagus Sylvatica* (Common Beech) would be an acceptable alternative and the slight increase in cost would be covered by the Tree Council Grant.

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The trees have the following properties and could therefore be positioned so that the larger trees are away from properties

Image	Species	Common Name	Description	Size	Growth Rate	Notes
	Tilia Cordata Greenspire	Small Leaved Lime	Tilia cordata has a regular, pyramidal shape and maintains a strong central leader and evenly branched crown through to maturity.	Height 12-17m Spread 10m 2031 Exp height 7.5m	30-60cm per year	It can be maintained as a pollard
	Betula nigra	Black Birch or River Birch	Pyramidal shape leaf cover in spring/summer	Height 12-17m Spread 10m 2031 Exp height 7.5m	30-60cm per year	In cultivation, it can be trained as either a single trunk or multi-trunked tree.
	Acer campestre	Field/Common Maple	widely used throughout the UK as a hedgerow plant	Height 7-12m Spread 8m 2031 Exp height 6.75m	30-45cm per year	will tolerate regular pruning during the winter period to keep it in shape.
	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	Sycamore might have been introduced by the Romans. Source of food and shelter for wildlife including aphids.	Height 12-20m Spread 8-15m 2031 Exp height 7.5m	30-60cm per year	Can grow to 40m however over a significant period, lives to 400 years.
	Fagus Sylvatica	Common Beech	The leaves of Fagus sylvatica are yellow to green in spring and a rich russet brown in autumn	Height 25-30m Spread 15-15m 2031 Exp height 7.5m	30-60cm per year	

The information in the table includes indicative values that vary depending on source of information and represents typical sizes. It should be noted that this can vary depending on growth conditions at the location and is therefore quite subjective.



Alternative Proposal 1

I have taken a walk around Roman Park today and I think there are viable alternatives to the tree planting locations previously agreed that would satisfy everyone.

I would also like to point out the existing trees in Roman park are closer to the perimeter fence than 10 metres. If the new trees were planted 10 metres from the existing fence then you would have a 'wobbly' line of trees which would not be as aesthetically pleasing as a straight line. In my opinion, 10 metres from the fence would still be too close as some of the mature trees already in the park drop their leaves into the residents gardens.

Referencing the attached photo, please see below for what, I think, are suitable alternative planting locations:

1. Two trees could go in this location, the fenced off end of Glebe Close. This would not interfere with any residents view.
2. Five trees could go along the fence bordering the coal yard and would go some ways to breaking up the view of the piles of coal.
3. One tree could go by the open fence by the play equipment. This, with seating underneath it. Could provide shade for parents while their children play on the equipment.
4. Two trees could fit in the space by the stile on the South fence.
5. There is enough space at the top of the park to plant a small wood copse. A couple of trees could be planted in the space between my property and where the tree line currently starts running NE to SW along the top fence. An additional row, or possibly 2 rows depending on the spacing, could be planted running NE to SW without obstructing the views.





Alternative Proposal 2



Tree 1,3,5 - *Fagus Sylvatica* (the Common Beech) - Larger trees so need to plant away from buildings.

Tree 2,4,6 - *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore) - Larger trees so need to plant away from buildings.

Tree 7, 10, 14 - *Tilia Cordata* green spire (small leaved lime) – smaller tree up to 12-17 mtrs and can be coppiced

Tree 8, 12,15 - *Acer campestre* Field Maple, Common Maple - smaller tree 12 -17mtrs used as hedgerows and will tolerate pruning.

Tree 9,11,13 - *Betula nigra*, (river birch or red birch)- smaller tree but multi trunked.

Trees 7 – 12 will be situated approximately 10 m from the Parish Council boundary, all other trees will be inline with those already present.



Appendix 1 – Tree Advice Received

From: Jerry Ross <trees@jerryross.co.uk>

Sent: 24 February 2021 12:34

To: clerk@credenhill-pc.org.uk

Subject: Re: FW: FW: Credenhill Tree Planting Project

Hi Lee.

The first thing to say is that *it's getting late!* As the saying goes, the best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago; the second-best time is now! However in more general terms, the best time to plant is in late autumn or early winter; by now many trees are budding up and spring will be on us in an instant.

You *can* of course plant later in the year, but bare rooted stock won't like it at all and even well-grown containerised plants will have more difficulty getting established and will need more intensive after care (watering and so on); and you'll almost certainly have more losses.

Regarding tree sizes and problems of (for want a better term I'll call) vandalism, it sounds as if the ones that suffered (3cm diam) were probably Standards [see * below for details of tree sizes]. Local Authorities often go for 'Heavy' or even 'Extra Heavy Standard', with trunks of between 12 and 18cm girth, largely because they are generally less susceptible to casual vandalism.

However larger trees take longer to get established. Plant a feathered tree and a heavy standard next to one another and in ten years or so the little one will probably have overtaken the larger tree. Also, of course, larger trees will be more costly, so to that extent you will have to cut your cloth according to your means.

Some losses are almost inevitable, although a larger planting scheme with lots of trees may be less likely to be affected by passing stem-snappers than the odd, isolated tree - and real community involvement can help by giving people a stake in the procedure.

The other way of avoiding vandalism is through protection but this can be expensive. However for the row of new trees you might consider fencing them all off - Post and barb would be cheap but probably not acceptable on a POS, but post and rail could still be cheaper than individual guards - just keeping people from approaching closely is likely to discourage casual vandalism.

I attach a couple of PDFs of tree planting and staking, one a Forestry Commission booklet, the other which I put together as a result of seeing so much poor practice during tree surveys.

I'm not going to try to give cost estimates - you'd need to look to the nurseries and suppliers of planting sundries (stakes, ties etc.) but it's very often the case that tree protection measures can be more costly than the trees themselves.

As for species, if you had ideas about planting this season (which as I say above, I'd be inclined to advise against) you may be limited by availability from reputable nurseries. As for species and varieties, it's very much a matter of preference. Some prefer to be quite strict about sticking to native varieties - for myself, as long as it's not in the open countryside, I'm quite open to exotics.

I would expect the soil to be fairly fertile and generally reasonably free draining although perhaps sometimes susceptible to waterlogging. It's a good idea to be guided by what does well in the locality. I'd avoid ash, what with Chalara becoming more prevalent; and you mention Horse Chestnut (*not* a native, of course!), which has been suffering from various pests and diseases and is likely to suffer from leaf-browning and early leaf-drop due to infestation by a leaf miner that has also become prevalent in recent years. Not a reason to avoid it totally, but don't be over-reliant on it.

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I think, from what I can see in the photos, that you have some Norway maples, including (I think) some purple-leaved varieties; but other maples may be worth considering, such as Cappadocian maple (*Acer cappadocicum*) and the Red maple (*Acer rubrum*); also the Field maple (*Acer campestre*) - a fine native tree, but be aware there are numerous cultivars, many of which have been bred as street trees to be (in my opinion) unnaturally upright and symmetrical. And you needn't be too sniffy about sycamore (some are...): it's very reliable tree and can be useful.

Limes are good; there are some wonderful ones as 'specimen' trees (notably the Silver Pendnat Lime (*Tilia petiolaris*) but in a planting like this the (native) Small-leaved Lime - *Tilia cordata* - is probably more appropriate. It makes a very fine tree in its natural state, but like *A. campestre* there are numerous cultivars which (again in my opinion) are less attractive, including some (e.g. Greenspire) that have a tendency to have weak forks that can fail.

Other trees: Oaks, Cherry, Beech (look around to see if they do well locally - if the soil is poor draining they might not like it). Also Rowan, Whitebeam; Birches of course (generally reliable - fast growing but *comparatively* short-lived - I rather like the River Birch - *Betula nigra*). Alders thrive in wet soils (but don't *have* to have it); and not forgetting smaller trees that may add a touch of colour, such as apples (crab and fruiting), ornamental thorns (*Crataegus spp.*) Flowering cherries and others in the genus *Prunus* (a huge variety - some flowering cherries may be too small so as to be overwhelmed by neighbouring, larger trees, but others will do well and provide flowers and sometimes attractive bark). And Amelanchiers/June berries (e.h. *A. lamarckii*) are good value (spring flowers, attractive berries; autumn colour). Then there's Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar*); Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus* - ideally the native, not 'fastigiata') and so on, almost ad infinitum.

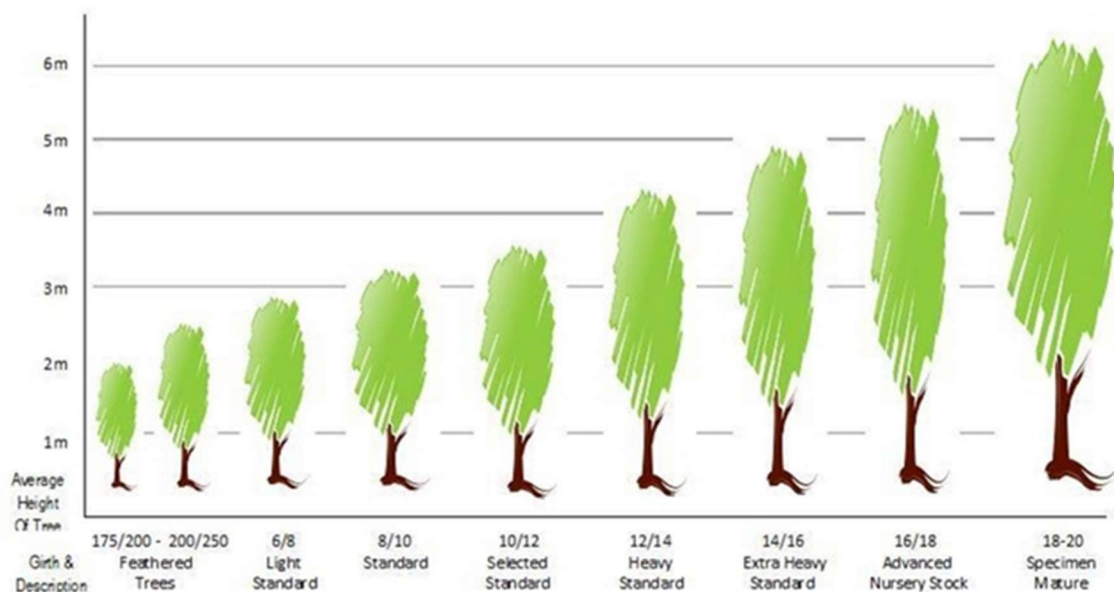
Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* ?

Hope this helps, and hope this provides sufficient advice to be able to fill in q. 5 of the Tree Council form.

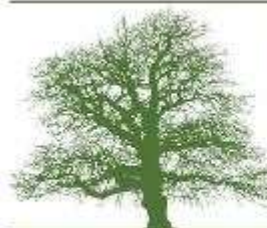
Kind regards

Jerry

* Because tree height can vary widely and often doesn't tell you much about the *sturdiness* of the tree, those over about 2m or so usually have their sizes defined by *girth*, measured around the trunk at about 1 metre; definitions vary a bit but this, nicked from a grower's website, gives an idea:



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The Old Pound - Llangarron - Ross-on-Wye - Herefordshire HR9 6PG

From: Jerry Ross <trees@jerryross.co.uk>

Sent: 02 October 2020 17:19

To: clerk@credenhill-pc.org.uk

Subject: Re: FW: FW: Credenhill Tree Planting Project

Hi Lee -

One way and another your query has ended up in my inbox - I'm not sure what you want, and you may have had other offers already, but I might be able to help with some general advice on tree planting, aftercare and indeed tree selection. Drop me a line or give me a ring to discuss.

Regards

Jerry (Co-chair of the Herefordshire Tree Forum)

PS - just to be clear, this would be pro bono!

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Appendix 2 – Tree Council Grant Form



Branching Out Fund Funding Breakdown Form

FORMULAE ARE PRE-ENTERED - do not enter any amounts into the total boxes

Please check formulae before submission

Credenhill Parish Council

Trees						
Full name of tree <small><i>Latin names, don't just put 'Oak' - either specify type of oak, or Latin Name</i></small>	Height of tree at purchase in CM	Specify if cell grown in a compost plug (CG) or bare-root (BR).	Have you considered full grown size of tree? Y/N	No of trees	Price of each excl. VAT	Total
Example - <i>Quercus Robur</i> - English Oak	200	BR	Y			-
Tilia cordata Greenspire	200	BR	Y	3	40.00	120.00
Betula nigra	200	BR	Y	3	53.00	159.00
Acer campestre	200	BR	Y	3	46.00	138.00
Acer pseudoplatanus	200	BR	Y	3	46.00	138.00
Castanea sativa	200	BR	Y	3	45.00	135.00
						-
TOTAL FOR TREES				15		690.00

Fruit trees						
Full name of tree <small><i>variety, e.g. not just 'Apple', 'Discovery'</i></small>	Height of tree at purchase in CM	Specify if cell grown in a compost plug (CG) or bare-root (BR).	Rootstocks for fruit trees (e.g. MM for fruit trees, Quince for Pears etc.)	No of trees	Price of each excl. VAT	Total
Example - Apple - Discovery	200	BR	MM106			-
						-
TOTAL FOR FRUIT TREES				0		-

Hedges - (Ideally) 5/6 plants per meter, planted in 2 staggered rows						
Full name of plant	Height of tree at purchase in CM	Specify if cell grown in a compost plug (CG) or bare-root (BR).	If you plan on allow some to grow to hedgerow trees, please indicate number here	No of hedgerow plants	Price of each excl. VAT	Total
Example - <i>crataegus monogyna</i> - Hawthorn	40-60cm	BR				-
						-
TOTAL FOR HEDGING				0	0	-

Aids to establishment				
Support type: Cane (C) Stake (S) Guard (G) and Ties (T) <small>Only non-plastic materials can be included here</small>	Number	Indicate for trees (T), fruit trees (F) or hedge (H)	Price of each excl. VAT	Total
S - 1.8m Rounded Posts - 1.8m x 75mm	30	T	4.55	136.47
G - Weld Mesh Tree Guards - 1.2m x 600mm	15	T	21.38	320.63
T - Flexible Rubber Tree Ties with Buckle - 24 inch	30	T	0.67	20.00
				-
TOTAL FOR AIDS				477.09

Other materials			
Other materials for consideration (e.g. mulch, matting etc.	Quantity	Price of each excl. VAT	Total
Ecomatt Weed Control Fabric Mats 1m x 1m 750g	15	4.43	66.50
25mm U-Nails / Galvanised Fencing Steel Staples	1	6.00	6.00
VR22 & CF20 Clips	1	13.50	13.50
FP222 Fencing Pliers for VR22 & CF20 Clips	1	29.95	29.95
Delivery charges - Trees	1	90.00	90.00
Delivery charges - Guards/Nails/Clips	1	29.50	29.50
TOTAL			235.45
TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUESTED			1,402.54

If not already included in tree prices