

Appendix D – Case Studies

Case Study: Planting Street Trees in Far Cotton



Between 2020 and 2021, community group Save Our Street Trees, in collaboration with the then Northampton Borough Council, Northamptonshire County Council, [The Woodland Trust](#), and urban foresters [Woodlanddwelling.co.uk](#), completed a successful pilot project to fund and plant 21 new street trees on Penrhyn Road in Northampton. The street trees were planted in vacant tree pits, where street trees had been lost over previous years and not replaced.



The project provides a blueprint for future urban tree plantings across the county. Learning from the project is facilitating the development of new processes and procedures that will enable residents, businesses and communities to support the planting of trees on their streets more widely across the area in future, ensuring more people have access to trees and a greener view near their homes.

Case Study: A Creating a Community Tree Nursery - Brackley Town Council

Brackley Town Council have been planting trees with schools and communities from across the town for many years, including through applications for free tree packs from organisations such as Woodland Trust. However, the Town Council recognised that there were multiple benefits to be had from adapting their approach to the supply of trees for Brackley to create a local supply; specifically:

- Growing locally sourced native seed ensures provenance and encourages healthy growth
- Planting trees that are more fully established promotes successful survival, and
- Engaging the community across Brackley in growing, caring for, and planting trees, would mean local people feel more connected to their local environment and help trees to flourish into the future

However, without land to establish a local tree nursery, the Town Council established an innovative approach to growing trees that secured the support of multiple tree-growing locations and helpers across the town – local schools.

A Community Tree Nursery is when people come together to gather local tree seeds, plant them and care for them until they become young trees.

Bradstone Primary School, Brackley Primary School and Little Fishes Nursery received an assembly presentation about woods and trees and how trees are managed in Brackley. The schools were then given seeds and compost, or small trees to be grown on.

From small seeds, mighty trees have grown. Over the course of a year, the trees are tended by the children until they are big enough to be planted. The Town Council have now established XX trees in this way, engaged XX children, parents and teachers and successfully planted XX trees across Brackley.

The Town Council would like to expand their tree nursery efforts should appropriate land become available.

Case Study: Creating corridors for wildlife: hedge laying in Brackley



Brackley Town Council have worked to establish new hedgerows across the town to help improve biodiversity and create long lasting hedges which will provide a habitat for a wide range of wildlife. In 2023, the Council were successful in securing grant funding from the countryside charity Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) as part of their Hedgerow Hero's project. The project involved a hedge laying course for members of the Town Council and volunteers, who would pass on their new knowledge and skills through further community planting events so skills can be passed on and further areas of hedge can be restored in the coming years. The project aimed to create 100m of new hedge. However, the project proved hugely successful, with over 200m of hedgerow planted in total, double what was planned for and with vast engagement, including with the local guides, cubs, brownies and beavers.

The funding received through CPRE has equipped the Town Council with tools and equipment that they are able to use to support projects more widely. For example, the Town Council have supported hedgerow laying with the Canal and Rivers Trust at Stoke Bruerne and coppicing work for Daventry Country Park.



Case Study: Planting a community orchard – Brackley Town Council

In 2019, the Brackley Town Council open spaces working party recommend the establishment of a mixed community orchard in the Tudor Way Park as a way of bringing more life and colour to the area, in addition to the many other benefits trees provide.

A mixed orchard of 37 trees, including pear, apple, plum, cherry and walnut trees were planted. The trees sourced were all of half standard size (at least 3 years' old) to ensure they would be quick to establish and begin fruiting.

The council hopes to create more orchards in the area for their biodiversity benefits, as well as to provide a source of local healthy food for residents, and to assist the council in its efforts to tackle climate change.



Case Study: Tree Planting in Wootton



In November 2022, an avenue of 28 New Horizon Elms were planted at Wootton Pocket Park, as part of a collaboration between Wootton Parish Council, Northampton Rotary, community group Save Our Street Trees, and urban tree experts Woodland Dwelling. The project was part of the Queen's Green Canopy and to mark National Tree Week and was part funded by a grant from The Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCF).

The project was driven by driven by Parish Councillor Helen Hodgkinson. Helen's passion for protecting and enhancing Wootton's open spaces for the wellbeing of residents, the creation of improved wildlife habitat, and to build resilience in the face of climate change initially led her to join the Parish Council. Helen set up an Open Spaces working group and formed a group of volunteers, known as 'Wild About Wootton', who together worked on planning planting projects. Helen also led on the funding bid to the Urban Tree Challenge Fund and brought in the support of Urban Forester Russell Horsey to develop the planting designs and support with navigating the processes involved in delivering a new planting scheme. The project was so successful that a year later in November 2023, Wootton undertook a second huge planting project which saw an additional 42 trees planted across the community, again thanks to funding from the Urban Tree Challenge Fund, as well as funding from the Parish Council and with support from local school children and community volunteers.



The project means that Wootton have increased their canopy cover, providing vital shade that will make Wootton's open spaces more hospital in heat of the summer, whilst providing a wildlife corridor through some of the area's most dense housing estates. The scheme was carefully designed to ensure Wootton's open spaces meet the needs of local people, provide seasonal interest and will ensure that the open space can be enjoyed by many future generations to come.