

Agenda Item 5 – Public Questions

1. Given that street trees have been proven to:
 - Have a dramatic cooling effect in high temperatures;
 - Reduce surface water run-off even when not in leaf;
 - Remove pollutants from the air;
 - Boost biodiversity;

And their presence has even been shown to:

- Reduce prescriptions for anti-depressants;
- Reduce crime levels;
- Reduce speeding;

Will the council build on the excellent work done so far in its tree planting programme with a specific programme to plant street trees in our towns and villages, with a measurable target in terms of numbers planted and/or coverage?

- Alan Thawley

2. Connectivity of habitats is important for increasing diversity and ensuring the long-term viability of the flora and fauna they support. For Buckinghamshire Council to take the leadership role that it should we need a comprehensive map showing:
 - Firstly, where all the Council's present and proposed tree planting sites are;
 - Secondly all the planting by other land holders;
 - Thirdly identifying gaps in wildlife corridors where particularly on low grade farmland natural regeneration could be encouraged which is very effective environmentally and in terms of cost.

Anecdotally I was unable to locate the Bury Farm site until seeing the map in today's update showed it was in fact an extension to Roger's Wood, not an area of planting I had seen 5km to the west alongside the A404. Will Buckinghamshire Council be implementing such a map so we can all understand and be involved in this important work which is being done for all of our futures?

- Andrew Douglas

3. It is good to see that Buckinghamshire Council have responded to declining tree cover in the county by road-side and larger scale tree planting. In the Princes Risborough – Thame area new planting can be found in town and on the A412 verge east of Kinsey.

As everyone is aware, we have recently had a period of high temperatures and low rain fall and there is no forecast at present for significant rain. In line with good tree planting practices, Buckinghamshire Council have included mulching and a watering system for each tree planted to help the tree cope with dry conditions. Sadly however, the trees on the Kingsey Rd are showing die back. On examination it appears that the mulch is of ineffective depth and the watering systems dry.

To thrive new planting requires mulch to a depth of 75mm and regular watering in dry periods. Can the Council confirm that it will be carrying out remedial mulching and watering immediately to all newly planted trees, including those on the Kingsey Rd, ensuring that all new trees in the County will thrive, grow, and be of benefit to people and the environment?

- Frances Wrigley