

Chesham Communi-Tree Project

The Chesham Communi-Tree Project is a community scheme championed by local Councillors, residents and Chesham Town Council that is working to plant trees back into the urban streets and setting of the 3rd largest town in Buckinghamshire.

In 2017 Councillor Nick Southworth voiced a desire to see the once tree lined Avenues of Chesham returned to their former glory after decades of tree removal. Working with Councillor Jane MacBean the Communi-Tree project blossomed, and a proposal was put to Chesham Town Council to support the development and delivery of a comprehensive planting scheme.

It was agreed that Chesham's urban landscape would benefit significantly from green planting to improve the volume and quality of its natural elements, which would also offset some of the negative aspects of modern living. The A416 runs straight through the middle of the Town and is designated an Air Quality Management Area where exhaust emissions and the close proximity of buildings contributes to unhealthy levels of poor air quality.

However, Communi-Tree is more than a tree planting scheme – it is a positive movement for education and change! We have very well informed and ambitious residents that understand the benefits of planting new trees for health reasons as well as the aesthetic improvement they can bring to the urban landscape and we want to ensure that the residents of Chesham are an integral part of Communi-Tree. We regularly promote the tree planting sessions and run awareness campaigns across numerous print and social media channels encouraging our residents to participate and nominate potential sites in the town, volunteer to be active in the physical planting of trees and take on some responsibility for watering and nurturing the saplings during their first couple of years as they take root and establish themselves. Planting sessions have been somewhat curtailed during the planting season from October 2020 to April 2021 due to Covid-19 but a small but perfectly formed group have continued to carry out a small scale, socially distanced programme of planting.

We have invested in further training and equipment for the already very experienced Town Council parks team, thereby delivering personal development achievements for key staff members. The project is also a strong example of collaborative working with Buckinghamshire Council, Paradigm, the streetworks licensing team and the local highways team to ensure well planned and carefully executed work programmes. We plant specific varieties of trees that do not grow to an excessively large height and are known for having small root systems that do not cause damage to surrounding roads, pavements or verges.

On that basis we are reintroducing trees and bringing our local streets back to their former natural glory. By the end of March 2021 Phases 1 and 2 will have planted approximately 100 trees back into the urban streets of Chesham and we are already preparing ambitious Phase 3 plans for the 2021/22 Autumn and Spring planting season to try to double that number.

Update prepared March 2021



Chesham Communi-Tree Project

Chesham Town Council is embarking on an ambitious tree planting project and hopes to plant between 100 and 200 trees across the town over the next 18 months.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

We are asking the residents and workers in Chesham to help with 3 specific tasks:-

Nominate a site near to where you work or live that would benefit from having a tree planted in it. The site can be in a pavement (subject to a highways suitability assessment), it can be on a public grass verge, it can be in the grounds of an office block or public building, it can be in an Avenue that has had its trees removed over the years OR it can even be in a front garden if that garden is next to a main road.

Volunteer to help us plant a tree on one of several town-wide community planting days (dates and times to be advised closer to the event).

Volunteer to help to water a newly planted tree near you once it is in the ground.

We want to make a real difference to the number of trees in Chesham, particularly in our more urban settings and one way to do this is to get planting!

To get involved please complete and return the tear-off slip to: **Chesham Town Hall, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 1DS** OR email enquiries to admin@chesham.gov.uk, nsouthworth@chesham.gov.uk or jmacbean@chesham.gov.uk

Chesham Town Council working in partnership with:



Chesham Communi-Tree Project

Name.....

Email.....

Address.....

Telephone Number.....

Site/s where you would like to see a tree planted (Please give road name, house number and / or building name to help easy identification of site.)

Are you willing to volunteer to help one of our teams on a planting day? (Final day / time to be confirmed at a later date.)

Yes No

Are you willing to take responsibility for regular watering of a tree once it is planted? (Frequency and length of watering period to be agreed.)

Yes No

How We Use Your Information

Chesham Town Council will process your data in compliance with current UK Data Protection Law. Your information will only be used in relation to the Communi-Tree Project. Please see our Privacy Policy at www.chesham.gov.uk