



SURREY TREE WARDENS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2020

Planting Street Trees – How to Go About It

Surrey County Council have issued new guidance on street tree planting, updated again since last October. Any application first has to be approved by Surrey Highways, and the only groups who can make that application are Borough, District and Parish Councils. So if you are a Tree Warden Group, you have to work through your local council.

These are the conditions, which are worth printing in full, and they can also be found on the Council website.

- The member of public, on whose behalf the application is being made, must be the owner or occupier of the property next to a suitable verge wide enough to accommodate a tree without risk of damage to a highway path.
- Be able to commit to the maintenance associated with establishing the new tree. The minimum commitment is normally for two years.
- Accept that the tree will be managed to highway standards as it matures, which is aimed at minimum intervention. Pruning will only take place if necessary, to reduce risk of harm being caused to the highway users.
- The licensed authority must cover the cost of grass verge reinstatement or replacement should the tree be lost due to natural causes, or damage, however caused.
- Agree the location of the tree with our Highways Maintenance Engineer who will confirm the location is suitable for planting or propose an alternative, if available.
- Agree the species with the Council's arboricultural specialist, before agreeing to plant a particular tree.

The Council will also check the location to make sure there is space for the tree; that there are no street light columns nearby (5 metres); that there are no overhead cables that a mature tree might reach; that it would be in character with the local street scene; that there are no underground pipes or cables; and that the tree will not block road sight lines, or block traffic lights or signs. Space for a growing tree is also vital. Each tree will need 1.1m, measured from the kerb, and a further 1.6m clear width on the pavement to ensure pedestrians can pass safely.

Finally, here's the list of trees available for planting: [Surrey Highways Trees](#) (1.4 MB).

You can also go to the Surrey Tree Warden Website for fuller details:

https://www.surreytreewardens.org.uk/rw_common/plugins/stacks/armadillo/media/HighwaytreeplantingandvergeenhancementschemesbestpracticeJan2020.pdf



London's Forest Invades the AGM

What could be more appropriate – an AGM with Street Trees as top billing! Author Paul Wood has agreed to speak. He has published two books on London's street trees, the latest titled "London is a Forest". Did you know that over 300 different tree varieties can be found on London's streets? The most common, perhaps not surprisingly, is the London Plane, that magnificent living piece of architecture. The Victorians discovered in the late 19C that it coped incredibly well with air pollution: particles are trapped in the bark and on the sticky leaves, and both are shed on a regular basis. This and far more on the day.

The plan is to pair author with a street tree planting expert – together making a stimulating day. So keep **Saturday 13 June** free. The meeting will be held in Tadworth, from 10.00 to 16.00. More details to follow.

Left: The Sunbury Gingko, street tree extraordinaire

Trees – Glorious Tadworth & Walton Street Trees!

Phase five of the Tadworth Street Tree project was completed in November 2019 when a further 29 trees were planted. Species included Acer, Silver Birch, Liquidambar, Field Maple, Cherry and Himalayan Birch.

Residents living adjacent to the newly planted plots took on the responsibility for watering the trees during the dry summer months. Without their support and commitment to water, the street tree project would not be possible. An amazing 140 street trees have now been planted within Tadworth and Walton-on-the Hill as part of this scheme.

Sadly, however it's not all good news – three trees were badly vandalised during the year and had to be removed. We have replaced one and it is hoped that the other two will be replaced in November this year. It's sad to think that anyone can take pleasure in destroying something that has taken so much effort to achieve and is of real value, environmentally, psychologically and visually to the local community.

Get those Trees Growing



More from Tadworth: Patricia Brookwick and her fellow Tree Wardens celebrated Seed Gathering Sunday in October with an Open Afternoon at the local Jubilee Wood. The day was aimed at children, to show them the wonder that is a seed. Many were gathered and carefully planted into specially crafted newspaper tubes to germinate over winter.

There were games to play, and puzzles to solve, and to round off the day, home made cakes - all washed down with a steady supply of fresh apple juice. It came from an apple crusher and press brought along for the afternoon. There was no shortage of young (and old) volunteers – to turn the handles and press the crushed apples for the reward of a golden flow of fresh sweet apple juice.

Post It!

The new Surrey Tree Warden website is up and running, thanks to some hard work from Rod Thorn, our Communications manager, and designer Tony Andrews. Find it at www.surreytreewardens.org.uk. There are sections for groups and for individuals, and the site has all the latest news of events throughout the county. For instance, there's an opportunity to get some trees for planting through an offer from Curchods the Estate Agents. Check it out, and don't forget to give Rod any news that will help him keep the website up to date. Find him at info@surreytreewardens.org.uk

A reminder too that a Facebook group has been set up for everyone in the Surrey Tree Warden Network. Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SurreyTreeWardens> and post details of your events and triumphs.

And please send the Newsletter Editor details of what you are doing too: lizramsay@aol.com Trees communicate – so can we!

News in Brief

Curchods, the Estate Agency with lots of branches in SW London and Surrey are offering funding for tree planting: a tree for every house sold. Tree Wardens are invited to apply, and applications will be assessed from April onwards. Details are on the STWN website: See above.

Sally Pemberton, a Spelthorne Tree Warden is to give a talk on **willows** and their place in local history. Wednesday 17 March, Haliford School, Shepperton at 7.30 for 8 o'clock.

Julie Bolton, Tree and Woodland Officer for West Sussex Council has been appointed **South East Regional Coordinator** for the Tree Warden scheme. She says her job is to bring groups together, to share best practice, and above all, and to provide training for TWs old and new. The Tree Council is currently working out how best that training should be delivered. A new national Tree Warden Coordinator is also being appointed

Surrey County Council has committed to planting **1.2 million trees by 2030** – one for each resident. It is an ambitious target and has been made in response to the Declaration of Climate Emergency by the Council last year.

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