

## Amenities and Leisure Committee meeting 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### 8.1. TREE PLANTING – Bulmershe Park

On 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022, the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk attended a site visit with Laura Buck (WBC), a representative from Freely Fruity, Sheena Matthews (ETC & FoBOS) and 2 officers from Woodley Town Council to discuss a Friends of Bulmershe Open Space proposal for fruit trees, successional planting and an edible hedgerow to be planted in Bulmershe Park.

Bulmershe Park is in the northern corner of the Bulmershe SULV. It is jointly owned and jointly managed by Earley Town Council and Woodley Town Council and currently consists of a large mown area, established areas of trees and shrubs and a small orchard. FoBOS has been lobbying for improvements to be made to the whole of the SULV area, most of which is under WBC control, this meeting dealt solely with the Bulmershe Park area.

In a very positive and constructive meeting it was agreed by all parties present that:

#### **Orchard:**

- The small orchard would be restored and expanded
- Freely Fruity to supply fruit trees (mid – late September)
- Freely Fruity to prune existing fruit trees
- Trees to be planted within mown strips as well as in the unmown areas in between – this will improve the biodiversity under and around the trees
- WBC to plant said trees
- WBC to provide mulch and protection to new trees
- WBC to be responsible for establishment of new trees. To include watering and re-mulching
- WBC's responsibility to last for 2-3 years, ie until trees are established
- After this point, ETC and WTC will take on responsibility for the fruit trees
- They will be low maintenance and there was a suggestion that FoBOS volunteers would be willing to assist

#### **Edible hedgerow:**

- WBC will rotovate a strip along the fenceline
- WBC to supply and plant hedgerow plants (November onwards)
- WBC to be responsible for mulch, water and establishing plants on same terms as the orchard, ie 2-3 years
- Once established, the hedgerow would become responsibility of ETC/WTC

#### **Successional planting:**

- There are currently older, established trees in eastern area of the mowed grass (includes oak)
- The plan is to plant whips of suitable species around these, hopefully to provide successional trees (November onwards)
- WTC currently carry out the mowing of the area and they confirmed this would not pose problems, it will slightly reduce the mown area but it was felt this would not be detrimental to users of the space

Jo Friend, Town Clerk