



Whittlesey Platinum Wood 2022 A Whittlesey Town Council & Community Project



News update #6

October 2024

Dear friends and sponsors,

Information – Update on WTC QEII Platinum Jubilee Wood

Inception was 18/11/2022 with **Phase 1**: 105 trees planted.

Phase 2 added twenty more trees (total trees – 25 Fruit trees plus 100 native trees). Furthermore, a Herb Garden and Pollination area have been added:

Community Orchard



Pear, Plum, Apple, Cherry & Damson



Pollination Area Colony of honeybees installed

A Beehive

Houses a new community of honeybees at the Southwest edge of the established treeline. There will also be a hotel for solitary bees. A local beekeeper regularly attends the honeybee hive.

Fencing has been installed to prevent curiosity from leading to the bees feeling threatened. This measure can be removed when the novelty wears off. Please be tolerant. We need these pollinators, and they will grace local gardens, but we are hoping that the community orchard will also benefit in subsequent years.

Community Herb Garden



Tended by Friends of Platinum Wood volunteers.

Plus, Wildflowers have been sown in the central area of the wood, and they are expected to show prominently in 2025. A further expansion is planned for phase three.

Two raised beds have been created and are established on the North edge of the Wood.

When established, visitors will be able to help themselves to what they require (subject to reasonable care of the plants)

One objective is to attract pollinators, such as those in a 'necklace of pearls' across Whittlesey, as pollinators visit many green areas.

Wildflowers

The central area was scraped free of vegetation, and two bunds were created from the spoil. This area has been sown with natural wildflowers in the middle and poppies around the edge. The bunds will naturally mature, and grass will be sown to help bind it together. Several million wildflower seeds were sown, including around 4 million poppy seeds.

Phase 3 (December onwards).

This Whittlesey Town Council initiative is entering the third phase of improvements, including five additional fruit trees in the community orchard and fifteen more sponsored British native species, with a greater proportion favouring damp root conditions. Some bird boxes will also be added, and an enhanced group of volunteers will help with the area's care and maintenance.

We will add a notice board (recycled).

A wonderful sponsorship of a Teak 4-seat bench will also be added in late spring. This is in addition to the King Charles coronation bench.

Feedback from people who regularly enjoy the area has been overwhelmingly supportive. This year, we only need to replace three trees that succumbed to ants and a long dry spell. When our above additions are made, the wood will have 145 trees.

The area is developing as planned—it is a long-term WTC project; Eamonn, Pauline (FOJW), and I are very grateful for the help, support, and sponsorship from individuals, local businesses, Peterborough Environmental Community Trust, WTC, and FDC.

In conclusion, a group called 'Friends of Platinum Wood' has been created so that like-minded people can become involved with this Whittlesey Town Council project.

We are always looking for new volunteers as the project grows and would welcome the extra help.

Whittlesey Town Council, 8 Queen Street, Whittlesey (01733 351296).

Cllrs Roy Gerstner and Eamonn Dorling are the lead Councillors.

