

BARNWELL PARISH COUNCIL

NEWS UPDATE

7 AUGUST 2022

BARNWELL ORCHARD PLAN



With the support of the Duke of Gloucester and the Barnwell Village Hall Committee, the Council have drawn up plans to create an orchard on a strip of the Barnwell Village Hall field. We are currently applying for grants for this project and will also welcome personal donations and council funding.

The aim is to establish a community orchard within the village and a community group to plant and care for the trees, which will enable engagement and education around environmental issues and ways in which local actions can help tackle wider Climate Change and Biodiversity issues, whilst bringing the local community together.

The orchard will link into this year's Queens Platinum celebrations and be part of the "Queens Green Canopy", particularly relevant given the village connections with the Duke of Gloucester, who has commended the proposed project during his recent visit.

The Orchard will consist of seventy heritage trees, with a variety of different fruits to provide local produce for the community as well as food source for local wildlife through the seasons.

The Parish Council declared a climate and environment emergency this year and has established an environmental action group who will support the planning of the orchard and the initial planting weekend, planned. Every child in the village will have the opportunity to plant their own tree, enabling a long-term connection with the project. The planting weekend will include planting sessions and education around tree planting, we will produce information leaflets and a certificate for each child. We hope to generate wider interest, to inspire others to plant further fruit trees within their own gardens, creating a legacy network of nectar and fruit rich trees throughout the village.

A group of community volunteers will care for the orchard in the long term, this will include watering and weeding in the first three years of establishment. In the longer-term work will include pruning, collecting fruit for the community and establishing a wildflower meadow beneath the trees.

The project aims to benefit everyone across the community and bring together a wide range of people, so will not focus on any one particular protected characteristic however there will be a strong focus on children and young people, encouraging over 70 young people within the community to plant their own tree that they can then look after for years to come, generating a connection with environmental action and community participation.



The police are appealing for information about a burglary at a property in Duke Street, Polebrook between 9am and 4pm on Tuesday 2 August. The offender reached into an open ground floor window and stole a laptop from the living room. We provided an alert here several weeks ago to keep an extra eye in this hot weather when you have windows open.

The Parish Council meets bi-monthly, usually on the third Tuesday of the month, at the Village Hall at 7pm. The public are welcome to attend. Minutes of the meetings can be found on the parish council website: www.barnwellparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Councillors:

David Brown (Chair). Jeanne DeBock. Catriona Forrest, Heather Hanlon, Tim Herring, Chris Soans, Graham Wise

Contact Details

For items requiring attention of the Council, please contact Nicki Phillips, the Parish Clerk: barnwellparishclerk@gmail.com