

SHOTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Dear parishioner,

The Parish Council has been approached with a request to facilitate a new Community Orchard. Parish Councillors support the project and what it can potentially deliver and have recommended the following steps were taken to ensure its success and longevity, as follows:

- 1- The Project will need a Community Group of volunteers, who will help with the sourcing of materials, planting of trees, watering until settled and maintaining the area in the long term. If you would like to join this group, please contact Ms Peta Hillier directly on 01473 787819.
- 2- The Parish Council has committed to clearing a suitable site for this purpose, with the help of the Community Payback Team, in the New Year.
- 3- A site has been identified – Corner section of the Heritage Park, adjacent to the footpath which leads to Estuary Road, off Stourside, Shotley Gate.
- 4- The first meeting of the group will take place on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 7.00 pm - Venue details will be provided once you register your interest with Ms Peta Hillier.
- 5- Final details to be agreed at the Parish Council meeting on January 16th 2020, following which a courtesy letter will be sent to residents adjoining the site to inform them of the project.
- 6- There may be an option for residents to sponsor a tree, so if you are interested please let us know.

Orchards provide vital green spaces and once trees are established, they can provide a large yield of fruit year after year for decades, requiring little human input. They can also help tackle global warming, support the rich heritage of the UK's fruit tree stock and provide an educational resource for local schools, as well as be a focus for community activities and events (such as weeding, mulching, pruning, etc).

There is already a smaller Orchard within the Heritage Park, which will be rejuvenated in the New Year with the help of volunteers, but there are other areas in the village that could potentially benefit from a similar scheme. This could be just the beginning!...

Interested? Please get in touch with Ms Peta Hillier on 01473 787819 or e-mail the Parish Council on Parish.Clerk@shotleyparishcouncil.org.