**Site meeting note- Tree planting sites BMDC/Addingham Parish**

**6 November 2020**

**Present:**

Edward Brightman BMDC – Assistant Tree & Woodland Manager

Wes Wilcox – APC

Rick Battarbee & Jan Hindle – AEG

Sam Bradley – Lower Marchup Farm (for this site only).

**Background:**

Ed confirmed that, as part of their response to the climate emergency, Bradford Council are committed to planting a tree for every primary school child and are currently working with local communities, town councils and Council departments to identify potential sites. 55,000 trees are to be planted over the next two years, on sites that are easily accessible to local communities (parks and recreation grounds, school grounds, BMDC owned grazing land etc.).

The Tree & Woodland team are currently researching and assessing sites. It is envisaged that most of the planting will take place in the 2021/22 tree planting season. However, they are intending to do some planting this winter on sites that are ready to go.

In addition, the Council is working with the Woodland Trust, the Forest of Bradford, farmers and landowners to find sites for woodland planting in more remote locations.

This is a district wide scheme. In selecting sites, landscape character (for example selecting sites in areas where there is less woodland cover) and the existing biodiversity value of sites (for instance avoiding species rich grassland and habitat for ground nesting birds) will be important considerations.

The landscape in our part of Wharfedale is already well wooded and has good tree cover, the Council’s priority here is likely to be corners of recreation grounds and village green space, new hedges and trees on field boundaries, and next to becks, rather than larger scale woodland creation.

**Sites visited:**

**1. Memorial Hall Recreation Ground**

The BMDC Tree & Woodland team have identified the MUGA bank as a potential site for planting. Its steepness makes it difficult to cut. Planting would help to stabilize the bank and help to soak up water draining off the slope, which makes the land below very wet, as well as improve the appearance of this slope.

AEG would support this. Compared to our other wildflower and pollinator patches we have had limited success in establishing wildflowers on this bank, and it remains species poor.

***The Tree & Woodland team would like to draw up a planting scheme for comment and approval by the Parish Council. If approved this area could be planted this winter.***

**2. Addingham Primary School playing field**

Hilary Cave has expressed interest in participating in the ‘Tree for Every Child’ initiative as part of the school’s Green Heart of the Village plan for the school grounds.

***The Tree & Woodland Team will put together some planting proposals for consideration by the School, looking particularly at planting in the school playing field adjacent to the new wetland.***

**3. The Old School Site**

The Tree & Woodland team are not considering this as a potential site for woodland planting. The bottom section of the site is in the current Local Plan as a housing site. The former playing field has good woodland and tree cover around the boundaries and alongside the beck and the open tussocky grassland and scrub is a valuable habitat for birds, butterflies, bees and other invertebrates.

**4. BMDC grazing paddocks on Sugar Hill & adjacent to Footpath 10 above Burnside Mill and below the Southfield Hollow lane.**

These sites are on the long list of sites being evaluated by the Tree & Woodland team. As these paddocks have heritage value as part of the parish’s medieval field pattern, any planting plans are likely to be confined to restoring hedgerows and planting new field boundary trees.

**5. Silsden Road Recreation Ground**

The Trees & Woodland team consider that there is scope to enhance and add to existing planting, particularly on the southern boundary and to use planting to help to soak up excess water. Ed suggested that there could be longer term potential to enhance the public right of way from the Silsden Road entrance to the Turner Lane entrance to create an off road cycle route and informal cycle trails for children as part of the BMDC cycling strategy. The popular cycle track at Aireville Park is an example of what has been provided elsewhere in the district. A BMDC cycle officer/project will be in place soon, scope of remit and scale not clear yet.

***The Tree & Woodland team*** ***can offer suggestions for planting type and layouts for discussion with the Parish Council, as part of the Tree for Every Child scheme.***

**6. Lower Marchup Farm**

The landowner, Sam Bradley, has expressed interest in woodland planting on this holding in the headwaters of Marchup Beck as part of the 4Becks Project natural flood management measures to slow the flow of water into Town Beck and improve water quality. The Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust have included funds for fencing and trees to start this project in a bid to the Environment Agency. If successful, the planting will take place this winter, with AEG providing volunteer labour.

The scope of the project and other potential funding sources was discussed on site. Ed suggested that this project could meet the criteria for Forest of Bradford funding and he would refer it to them. BMDC may be able to provide some trees to supplement planting, as the small area by the beck is adjacent to the right of way would be the only area where ‘tree for every child’ support could be considered (then only a couple of hundred trees maximum).