

# NETTLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Office

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August 2022

Dear Resident,

After many years of managing Green Lane (Bridleway 219) on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council, Nettleham Parish Council have now discovered they in fact own this land. We would, therefore, like to take the opportunity to make improvements to Green Lane from a biodiversity and ecology aspect as well as its amenity value to the village and you as a resident living close to Green Lane.

Hedgerows are on the decline in England yet they are invaluable in helping to clean the air, capture carbon, increase biodiversity and provide wildlife corridors. As there has been no significant work carried out in Green Lane for many decades we feel it is now time to take a radical approach and rejuvenate the area.

On the All Saints Lane side, we would propose felling all the sycamore and ash trees together with other failing and damaged trees. We would remove everything which hangs over gardens. We would reduce the height of existing hawthorns and hazels and interplant with other native species to form new hedging to a suitable height along the length of that east side. We would retain the field maples, hollies and limes but control their growth.

On the west side, next to the Police Headquarters field, we would thin out the sycamores and ashes to produce fewer but better trees and also prune back overhanging branches to create a more open aspect instead of the tunnel effect that exists now. The thinning would also benefit all the new tree planting in the police field, PC Wood, as more light would be available to encourage their growth. More sunlight on the lane itself would enable it to dry out more effectively in the winter months when it can become very muddy. Wildflower planting would also be more successful in these conditions.

This is a really significant change to what most villagers have been accustomed to over the last half-century but originally Green Lane was bounded by hedgerows which provided a far more beneficial habitat and we would like to re-create this as best we can.

The main work on this project would be undertaken by a professional contractor and we anticipate that the more routine maintenance would be carried out by volunteers from the community, including Nettleham Woodland Trust, and that some of you – the immediate neighbours – may want to be involved too. We would like to commence work this autumn before the bird breeding season starts in Spring 2023.

This proposal will be brought to the September meeting of the Parish Council for consideration but, in the meantime, we would appreciate having your views as you would be affected by the changes. We would be grateful if you could let us have your comments by contacting the Parish Office by letter, email or telephone as detailed above.

Thank you.

Cllr. Mrs Janice Clayton

On behalf of Nettleham Parish Council