

## Green Lane -

### Introduction

When it was established recently that Nettleham Parish Council owns Green Lane (Bridleway 219), the Property Committee wished to investigate how the Lane could be improved as comments had been received that its character had changed considerably over the years from hedgerow to self-set tree dominance.

A meeting was held on 13th July with two Nettleham residents who have experience in woodland management to discuss how changes could be achieved from a biodiversity and ecology aspect as well as its amenity value to the village and nearby residents.

### Rationale

There has been no significant work carried out on Green Lane for decades and it was felt that this was an ideal opportunity to take a radical approach to rejuvenate the area by significantly reducing/pruning the number of trees which would help to eliminate the tunnel effect formed by the excess tree canopy and re-introduce more native hedging. Hedgerows are equally invaluable as trees in carbon capture and cleaning the air as well as increasing biodiversity and providing a more beneficial wildlife habitat. More sunlight on the lane itself would enable it to dry out more effectively in the winter months when it can become very muddy and wildflower planting would also be more successful in these conditions.

A letter setting out this proposal was sent in August to residents on All Saints Lane whose property backed onto Green Lane and to those living in the immediate area to gauge reaction and asking for comments. An article was published in the September issue of Nettleham Matters and posted on the Parish Council and village Facebook sites and Parish Council noticeboards in an effort to disseminate this information to the wider community.

The Tree & Landscape Officer at WLDC was also approached for comment as per [Appendix 1](#).

### Proposal

A breakdown of the scale of work is provided for information – shown as [Appendix 2](#). Two contractors have quoted for the work as follows:

Contractor 1	(quotation price redacted)
Contractor 2	(quotation price redacted)

If the project was undertaken on a more piecemeal approach, other quotes could be obtained from smaller contractors who could not manage this as a whole.

A licence from the Forestry Commission would be required to fell this number of trees with the proviso that a 5:1 replacement is carried out but these could be of a variety compatible with a hedgerow scheme.

New planting costs would be covered from a LCC Community Wildlife Grant of £500.

There is currently £3700 in earmarked reserves from last year's unspent tree budget. Grant opportunities could be explored.

Once established, a hedgerow would require minimal maintenance and it is envisaged that other ground clearance work and ongoing general maintenance could be carried out by a community volunteer group.

### Timescale

Initially it was hoped work could commence this autumn prior to the 2023 bird nesting season. However due to the high expenditure, it is accepted that the project, if approved, would have to be staged over a longer period (3-5+ years dependent on funding) which would also allow a period of transition to a changed environment.

### Conclusion

This is obviously a very subjective issue as many villagers will only have known Green Lane as it is now and may not wish to see change but those residents backing on to the lane have a different view and experience considerable inconvenience from the tree cover. The Parish Council has already incurred costs to help mitigate this problem. In any event a plan for future management of Green Lane is necessary and will, in particular, need to address these large trees as they age and deteriorate.

## APPENDIX 1

### RESPONSE FROM WLDC TREE OFFICER – GREEN LANE

**From:** Tree & Landscape Officer - WLDC

**Sent:** 07 September 2022 16:01

**Subject:** RE: Trees in Green Lane Nettleham

Thank you for finding the info of when the email was sent to me. I have checked my emails for the 8<sup>th</sup> and can confirm that it was not received, though my email address in the email below is correct so not sure what happened to it.

**In response to the email below:**

None of the trees within Green Lane are currently protected, so WLDC would have no authority in what happens to the trees. Originally there were four TPO ash trees in the rear boundary hedges or gardens of properties along All Saints Lane, two of which were felled in 1983 and one in 1987, and T21 soon after, all of which should have had replacements planted either within their boundary hedges with the green lane or a bit further into their gardens.

The trees provide a nice green feature as a backdrop to the bungalows along All Saints Lane, and soften the lines of the roof ridges. Without the natural green backdrop the west side of the street will appear more harsh.

The email below is not clear whether proposals are to clear fell the trees or to retain a number of the better quality trees, or how many are intended to be felled. If the proposal is to clear fell or remove most of the trees, I fail to see how cutting down many large, established trees to plant new hedgerow plants would be of benefit to wildlife. It will take several years for new hedgerow plants to grow sufficiently to provide an effective hedgerow, and many, many more years for it to develop and mature sufficiently to provide wildlife or biodiversity benefits anywhere remotely close to what the existing trees currently provide.

Yes, hedgerows are classed as priority habitats that should be retained and improved where possible, as they are important wildlife corridors that support an array of wildlife, but I think it is a drastic measure to sacrifice a number of established trees for a hedgerow to be planted.

The two best things to do to improve biodiversity value are to plant trees and create a wildlife pond. Tree removal in favour of hedgerow planting would open up the bridleway and allow more light in along the route, though I feel it should be selective tree removal to just thin out the canopy cover by removing the poorest quality trees rather than mass removal. Removal of all or most of the trees would be to the detriment of biodiversity and amenity value.

Tree and Landscape Officer

**From:** sent on behalf of Nettleham PC

**Date:** 8 August 2022 at 14:52:38 BST

**To:** Tree & Landscape Officer - WLDC

**Subject:** Nettleham Parish Council - Green Lane

Hello - 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.

Originally Green Lane was bounded by hedgerows which provide a much better habitat for wildlife but over the last fifty years self-set trees have grown unattended and changed the environment beyond recognition.

The Council is now looking to take the opportunity of radically rejuvenating the Lane in an effort to reintroduce as much native hedging as possible. This will necessitate the removal of a large number of trees, mostly ash and sycamore, and as a courtesy it was thought appropriate to inform you of the Council's proposals.

To our knowledge based on the online TPO map there are now no trees with TPOs requiring your involvement, three were felled in the late 1960s and the fourth, judging from the stump, was removed quite some time ago. If you have any comments to make, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Regards – sent on behalf of Nettleham Parish Council

## APPENDIX 2

### PROPOSALS – Green Lane, Nettleham starting Deepdale Lane end

#### LHS (All Saints Lane)

- 4 Sycamore fell
- coppice all Hazel
  
- 1 Blackthorn fell
- 4 Ash fell
- 2 fells (species not rec), reduce others
- top/ trim Yew (Chris Williams - I know what that means!)
- 4 Ash fell
- 1 Syc/Ash/Cherry fell
  
- LHS of steps, trim/tidy Checker tree & remove 2 trees LHS steps
- coppice all Hazel & fell 1 large Cherry (RHS steps)
  
- lift Hawthorn next to 4 Watermill Lane

#### RHS (Police field)

- 1 Sycamore straighten
- 1 multi-stem Sycamore, included bark, fell leaving rear stem only
- 2 Sycamore fell, multi-stem ivy smothered
- 1 multi-stem Ash fell (included bark)
  
- 2 Ash fell
  
- Blackthorn down & reduce off path
- 1 Ash fell (group behind the blackthorn)
- 1 multi-stem Ash fell by cut through into police field
- cut overhang from police field & reduce all trees near to 6ft
- 1 Ash fell (ivy smothered)
- 2 Lime lift and reduce back from lamp column
- 1 Silver Birch fell by the gate/dog bin

#### totals

- 5 Sycamore fells
- 9 Ash fells
- 2 Cherry fells
- 4 fells species not recorded
- 1 Blackthorn fell
- all Blackthorn shrub
- 1 Yew trim, 1 Checker trim
  
- create more of a hedge feel
  
- total 21 fells + multiple reductions & coppicing
  
- chippings can be at Mulsanne Park, Vicars Wood (All Saints end)
- will advertise if people want timber esp. Ash & Cherry

#### totals

- 3 multi-stem Sycamore fell
- 2 multi-stem Ash fell
- 2 Ash fell
- 1 Ash group fell
- 1 Silver Birch fell
- multiple reductions
- blackthorn shrub cleared
  
- create more of a hedge feel
  
- total 9 fells (of which 5 multi-stem, 1 group) + multiple reductions & coppicing
  
- chippings can be at Mulsanne Park, Vicars Wood (All Saints end)
- will advertise if people want timber esp. Ash & Cherry