Dear Parish Council Colleagues,

I hope you are well.

It has been a few years since we last contacted Parish Councils about tree planting opportunities and following a recent discussion with the Deputy Leader of Swindon Borough Council, I wanted to get back in touch to highlight the support available through the Trees for Climate programme and an exciting new programme increasing nature in Swindon to Wiltshire.

Trees for Climate
As part of Swindon Borough Council's ongoing commitment to increasing tree cover across the Borough and supporting our climate, biodiversity and community ambitions, I wanted to remind Parish Councils of the tree planting support that is available through the Trees for Climate programme.

Over the past few years, a number of Parish Councils have successfully worked with us to deliver tree planting projects on land that is maintained by the parish, including parks, open spaces, recreation grounds, community spaces and other suitable areas. Funding can cover the cost of trees, planting and establishment, depending on the nature of the project and site suitability.

- Tree planting can provide a wide range of benefits, including:
- Creating attractive and resilient green spaces for residents.
- Supporting wildlife and biodiversity.
- Providing shade and helping communities adapt to climate change.
- Improving local landscapes and strengthening sense of place.
- Contributing towards local environmental and sustainability objectives.

We recognise that every Parish is different, and projects can range from small community orchards and hedgerows through to larger woodland creation schemes. We are happy to discuss ideas at an early stage and help identify suitable opportunities.

If your Parish Council has land that may be suitable for tree planting, or if you would simply like an initial conversation about potential opportunities, please get in touch.

Swindon to Braydon Forest Corridor
Great Western Community Forest is working with the Woodland Trust, Western Forest, National Trust, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Wiltshire Council and other partners to create a new nature rich and resilient corridor in Swindon and Wiltshire.

This community-led initiative aims to connect the urban areas of Swindon and Royal Wootton Bassett with the rural landscapes of North Wiltshire, creating a network of trees, woodlands and nature-rich spaces that reflect local priorities.

We want to understand what matters most to communities and where people would like to see nature enhanced across the corridor – bringing forward sites for new nature spaces. As part of this programme the partnership is offering a Community Listening Microgrant to support local groups to ask their community what their priorities for the corridor are and where they would like to see more trees. Follow @westernforestuk Instagram or our LinkedIn: Western Forest to follow the grant once it goes live in November.

Launch Event
To launch this work, we are hosting our first community event during **National Tree Week on Wednesday 25 November, 16:00-19:00**. This will be an opportunity for people to share ideas, experiences and aspirations for the future of their local environment. The event will include:

- A warm meal and refreshments
- Short talks on the vision for the corridor
- Interactive mapping, storytelling and creative activities
- Naming the corridor
- Q&A on the Community Listening microgrant
- Discussion on future opportunities and action

We would be grateful if you could share the attached invitation through your networks and encourage residents, community groups and local organisations to attend. Please follow the event link to sign up: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2003712702632?aff=oddtdtcreator

If you would like to discuss tree planting opportunities within your parish, or learn more about the Swindon to Braydon Forest Corridor, please do get in touch.

We look forward to working with you to create a greener, healthier and more connected landscape across Swindon and Wiltshire.

Kind regards,

Community Forest Woodland Officer – Team Leader
Economy & Development
Swindon Borough Council

W: www.swindon.gov.uk
W: www.englandscommunityforests.org.uk

