

NEWSLETTER – GREAT NEWS Feb 15 2021

We are really pleased to announce the exciting news that Guilden Sutton Green Space has completed the purchase of 5 acres of land off School Lane for community use.

The land has been jointly funded by the [Mersey Forest project](#) and the [Cheshire West and Chester Climate Emergency Fund](#). Additional financial support is being provided by Guilden Sutton Parish Council, and we would also like to thank [Jolliffes](#) solicitors for their considerable assistance in dealing with the transaction.

So, what happens now?

The first things we need to do are to plant the 4,000+ trees that we have promised to our funders before the end of March, and to make the site safely accessible to local residents. In due course we will update the website with more detailed information, but the headlines are:

Access - There is currently no public access to the site. A number of changes are needed before we can open it safely, **so we are asking everyone to please wait until it is ready to be officially opened before visiting.**

Tree-planting - Arranging for local volunteers to plant 4,000 trees before the end of March would be no mean feat under normal circumstances. It's an even bigger challenge under Covid restrictions.

With this in mind, we are planning the tree-planting in two distinct phases:

Phase 1 will take place from now until the end of March, with the objective of planting as many of the trees as we are able to.

Would you like to help? For this phase we will need adult (or 16+) volunteers who can offer one or more full days of planting between now and the end of March, and who can ideally be fairly flexible about when that day (or days) might be.

No experience needed, plenty of fresh air on offer, and the chance to be part of a team doing something really worthwhile. We won't be digging holes, just using spades to cut a slot in the soil and then firming in the saplings. We are reliably informed that enthusiastic amateurs usually manage about 60 trees in a day! To book your place or find out more please get in touch by return to this email, or via the website contact form.

We don't yet know what the next stage of Covid restrictions will be, but we will almost certainly need to limit numbers on site at any one time and keep records of who has taken part. Socially distanced volunteering is permitted even under the current full lockdown (<https://www.gov.uk/volunteering/coronavirus-volunteering>), but we fully understand that some may prefer to wait until circumstances change. We hope that by the Autumn the situation will have eased and we will be able to welcome everyone to take part in 'Phase 2'.

Phase 2 will take place in the Autumn. This phase will give us a chance to come together as a community to celebrate the new green space. **It will be the perfect opportunity for people of all ages to plant a few trees in a more relaxed way. We hope to do this as part of a family-friendly village event, perhaps over the course of a weekend.**

We hope that you will be as excited as we are that the Green Space project is finally coming to fruition. Do look out for more updates on the [Green Space website](#) and on Facebook, and let us know if you would like to help with the first stage of tree-planting over the coming weeks.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to meeting up on the Green Space,

the Guilden Sutton Green Space team

Amy, Becky, Brian, Derek, Matthew P, Mel, Reza, Sarah & Tony

