

Press Release – 20 new trees for Swanage

Dorset Council planted 20 young oak trees along the northern verge of the High Street on the way into Swanage at the end of November. This project supports The Swanage School's recent hedge and tree planting project, which is aimed to increase biodiversity and the wellbeing of young people of the town, as well as enhancing visual amenity in the area for residents and visitors alike.

The Sustainable Swanage group worked with Dorset Council on developing this project and have raised funds to pay towards the planting of ten trees while the other ten are being provided under Dorset Council's policy of replacing previously felled trees.

Sarah from Sustainable Swanage said "Members of the public generously donated to sponsor the project and we have been overwhelmed with support, thank you to everyone who contributed and got in touch. We are looking to develop more projects next year. We had hoped that volunteers would be able to help with the planting but unfortunately covid-19 restrictions at the time prevented this"

Dorset Council Arboriculture Manager, Steve Maros, says: "Trees in urban areas have a vital role to play in ensuring that our towns are enjoyable and habitable to live in. They bring many other benefits including; filtering of airborne dust and pollution, absorbing traffic noise, reducing temperature extremes, increasing privacy in residential roads and providing shade. They also play an important role in nature conservation by providing food and nesting sites for birds, insects and other animals and they provide many psychological and health benefits."

It is often difficult to reconcile tree planting with other needs required in urban areas such as roads, footpaths, street lighting, cycleways and utility services. These items do not always co-exist harmoniously with trees and because trees in urban areas are under enormous pressure. Dorset Council are trying to compensate for this by seeking to plant trees in verges wherever it is practical.

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Avril Harris says: "This is an exciting and positive project for the town during these difficult times and it's a contribution to our efforts to address the climate and ecological crises, which Swanage Town Council takes seriously."

This is one of several projects that Sustainable Swanage is involved with to enhance green spaces for the benefit of people and wildlife. If you would like to get involved, then please contact Sustainable Swanage on welcome@swanage.gov.uk or visit the webpages www.litterfreecoastandsea/sustainable-swanage

Editor's note:

Sustainable Swanage is a group set up to help Swanage to become a more sustainable community. Sustainable Swanage is hosted by the Dorset Coast Forum which is an independent coastal partnership working across Dorset to deliver economic, social and environmental benefits to the Dorset coast, its surrounding seas and its communities.