

Gloucestershire County Council

Reference: Ash Dieback Project, replanting scheme.

In June 2020 GCC Highways launched the Ash Dieback Project to start to tackle the effects of the disease within the county. The disease also known as Chalara is caused by a fungus which affects the vascular system of Ash trees and can kill young specimens very rapidly. Older trees can resist for longer but are likely to shed limbs, become unstable and are extremely likely to die.

During the two years, GCC Highways managed to remove **7,293** infected Ash Trees which posed a danger to highway users. With an aim of replanting at least two trees for every diseased tree felled.

During the last two planting season a total of **31,796** trees were planted by March 2022, either by our Ash Dieback team or through providing young trees to Parish Councils.

Local Parish Councils Replanting

The replanting season runs between November and March, we would encourage the local parish councils to use their local knowledge and expertise to assist us in identifying suitable areas within your community where replanting can be undertaken. If practical we would be looking at planting in groups of mixed native whips (young tree seedlings 2-3 years old) rather than larger specimen trees, but we can consider all requests.

Within the capacity of the Ash Dieback Project, we currently have two options available.

1. Submit areas to be considered for replanting on highways land by the Ash Dieback Team.
2. Submit a request for whips / trees to be donated to the parish council, to plant themselves within the community.

If you would like to submit a request for trees to be planted during **November 2022 to March 2023**, please contact Sandhurst Parish Council Clerk e mail Sandhurstpc@gmail.com by 24/07/2022.

This planting work is being undertaken in addition to the County Council's existing pledge on tree planting.

Tree Warden Scheme

GCC are in process of setting up Gloucestershire Tree Warden scheme with the Tree Council, if you wish to become a tree warden or wish to find out more, please email TreeWardenScheme@Gloucestershire.gov.uk.

Supporting Local Community replanting Projects October 2021 to March 2022

One aspect our replanting phase, is supporting Local Parish Councils with donations of whips / trees to support local community replanting projects and enables the public to play a part in replanting two trees for every one lost by ash dieback, with emphasis on planting the right tree in the right place.

There are numerous benefits that projects like these can bring to the community such as bringing people together, as well as positive impact on mental health and wellbeing, reducing stress and encouraging outdoor activities. Creates wildlife habitat, planting native mixed trees and hedgerows is extremely important step to welcoming wildlife as they offer both protection and shelter, while fruits, nuts and seeds provide nutrition.