

From: Cllr Gale Waller <GWaller@rutland.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 June 2024 09:48
To: EW Clerk; Andrew Lunn
Cc: Cllr Tim Smith
Subject: FW: Tree Champions

Sara,

Could you please put this request for a tree champion (see below) on the agenda of your parish council meeting. I can talk to it if necessary.

Best Wishes,

Gale Waller

Leader, Rutland County Council and Member for Normanton Ward

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From: Cllr Christine Wise <CWise@rutland.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 9:23 PM
To: Cllr Karen Payne <KPayne@rutland.gov.uk>; Cllr Nick Begy <NBegy@rutland.gov.uk>; Cllr Tracy Carr <TCarr@rutland.gov.uk>; Cllr Andrew Johnson <AJohnson@rutland.gov.uk>; Cllr Andrew Brown <ABrown@rutland.gov.uk>; Cllr Giles Clifton <GClifton@rutland.gov.uk>; Cllr Kevin Corby <KCorby@rutland.gov.uk>; Cllr David Wilby <DWilby@rutland.gov.uk>; Cllr Hans Zollinger-Ball <HZollinger-Ball@rutland.gov.uk>; Cllr Matthew Farina <MFarina@rutland.gov.uk>; Cllr Gale Waller <GWaller@rutland.gov.uk>; Tim Smith <timwestonsmith@gmail.com>; Cllr Oliver Hemsley <OHemsley@rutland.gov.uk>
Cc: Stuart Kidd <SKidd@rutland.gov.uk>
Subject: Tree Champions

Good evening everyone

As the Nature Recovery Strategy being led by Leics CC progresses, it is obvious that we need to start preparing ourselves. It is important that the strategy is real to our parishes; something they work within and not have done to them. A first step toward that is for every parish to have a Tree Champion.

A Tree Champion requires no qualifications or experience but just a passion to enhance and retain the treed environment. Together with Stuart Kidd (our Tree Officer) they hold discussions on growing trees from seed, planting schemes, whistle blowing (on unlawful tree work), maintenance work (e.g. watering), issues with trees, or anything else that the group wants to discuss about trees.

Tree Champions vary from parish to parish but are typically selected by a parish council. Some of the Councils have trees amongst their assets, but some have little or no land with trees. Some find it relevant because they are within a conservation area, or work beyond their parish council with other volunteer groups. The meetings are always informal and welcoming.

During the meetings Stuart helps to develop the Tree Champions' knowledge with discussions on risk, tree condition, pests, diseases, planting techniques, and the law. He also answers questions that they may have about RCC's approach to tree management. The only item kept to a minimum, or avoided altogether, is individual planning applications specifics because they can prejudice a case against the Planning Department.

The group also learns from each other, sharing ideas and joining together of schemes. Anyone is welcome who wants to contribute and become a Tree Champion.

The parishes below do not currently have a Tree Champion that attends meetings although Uppingham is in the process of appointing one. I wonder if you could encourage your parish councils and meetings to think about this important role. The council may not have any trees on its land currently but we would like them to be involved in planting schemes going forward. Any questions can be directed to Stuart or me.

1. Ashwell
2. Ayston
3. Barleythorpe
4. Barrow
5. Barrowden
6. Bisbrooke
7. Brooke
8. Burley
9. Cottesmore
10. Edith Weston
11. Egleton
12. Empingham
13. Essendine
14. Glaston
15. Great Casterton
16. Gunthorpe
17. Hambleton
18. Little Casterton
19. Manton
20. Morcott
21. Normanton
22. Pickworth
23. Pilton
24. Preston
25. Stretton
26. Teigh
27. Thistleton
28. Thorpe by Water
29. Tickencote
30. Tixover
31. Uppingham
32. Wardley
33. Whitwell
34. Wing

Best wishes

Christine

Cllr Christine Wise
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