

From: Office <office@stevenson-oxford.co.uk>
Date: 6 January 2020 at 12:29:38 GMT
To: Duncan Enright <Duncan.Enright@witney-tc.gov.uk>
Subject: Increasing tree cover in Oxfordshire

Dear Duncan,

I am writing to invite you to participate in an exciting new initiative that aims substantially to increase tree cover in Oxfordshire. If you are interested and willing to participate, we would be grateful if you could complete [this form](#).

2020 is the year in which we must start actively to address both species loss and climate breakdown, and we want Oxfordshire to take a lead. All six councils in the County have declared a climate emergency but as yet no overall clear plan of action has been developed. Increasing tree cover is just one part, but an essential part, of the actions we need to take.

A programme of work is being developed to devise and implement a single unified plan for the optimising of tree cover in Oxfordshire by 2045 that all interested parties can actively support and participate in, and that sets an example nationwide.

Initially it is proposed to determine where trees could be planted using a participatory GIS mapping process. We see GIS mapping as the best way to ensure the planting or natural regeneration of the right trees in the right places, whilst recognising other land use priorities such as maintaining diverse natural habitats, agriculture, housing and other key considerations. The national tree champion Sir William Worsley is being invited to come to Oxford in the late spring to hear our conclusions.

So far, a steering group has been created to oversee the project, consisting of the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment, the Environmental Change Institute, Oxfordshire's Trees for the Future and Nicholsons Forestry. We are now reaching out to all the organisations in Oxfordshire with an interest in land use, nature and climate change to invite them to participate to ensure that their viewpoint on the best future land uses for Oxfordshire are fully represented.

We would be extremely grateful if you would complete [this form](#) by 24th January at the latest so that we can understand the extent to which you might be willing to participate in this project. Your contribution could range from being kept informed of progress to providing datasets and judging on their suitability in building the final picture.

We then plan to hold an open meeting to which you are all invited at which we will present our initial thoughts on how to go about the GIS mapping project and to seek your advice and input. Completing the form will ensure you receive an invite to this event.

On a day to day basis, this initiative is being co-ordinated by Jamie Hartzell and Victoria Macnamara, who can be reached at the email addresses and phone numbers below. Feel free to get in touch directly with any queries, rather than contacting me directly.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Tim Stevenson
Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire