

PRESS RELEASE: Tree planting in Walmer

A major new tree planting project is due to get underway in the New Year thanks to Walmer Parish Council. Some years ago councillors expressed disappointment with the fact that trees seemed to be disappearing from Dover Road when they reached the end of their lives and were not being replaced. The result was a far different vista down Drum Hill than was evident in the first half of the twentieth century as recently as the 1990s.

In October, a consultation letter was sent out to residents of the Dover Road, between Archery Square and Gothic Close. This letter explained that WPC was considering planting trees on the Dover Road to replace those that have been lost over many years. Views and comments of those whose properties front the Dover Road were invited and the response was overwhelming. 88 letters were hand delivered to households and 55 replies were received constituting an impressive 63% response rate. Of these 95% were in favour of tree planting.

As a result Walmer Parish Council approved funding to plant as many trees as possible on the Dover Road and in Warwick Road.

Cllr Mrs Marguerite Beard-Gould, Chairman of the Amenity & Environment Committee which led the development of the project is delighted that it is coming to fruition. "It has taken a lot of hard work to get to this point and I would like to thank the Soft Landscape Team at Kent County Council for their help and advice. The project will be subject to final approval by Kent Highways engineers and we have tried to address the issues raised by those three residents who did not support the project."

Planting sites have been located and subject to testing for services phase one is expected to commence before Christmas. Tree varieties have been selected with careful consideration paid to location, size, colour of blossom and foliage, and change of season. The Council also wishes to thank Kent County Councillors for Deal and Walmer who have contributed to this project.