



## Suffolk Tree Warden Network - Calling on Parish/Town Councils

*Your help is needed to have a Tree Warden in every town, parish or group of small parishes in Suffolk.*

### What are Tree Wardens?

Tree Wardens are volunteer tree champions caring for trees in their parish or town. The Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative set up by The Tree Council to enable local people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods.

### Why are Tree Wardens needed?

- As local people, Tree Wardens know their area and can take the most effective action to protect and enhance their local environment.
- Trees, hedgerows and woodland are under threat from development, pests and disease, climate change and pollution.
- Action is needed now if future generations are to enjoy the beauty and variety that trees, hedgerows and woodland bring to the Suffolk landscape.

### Background information

- There have been Tree Wardens in Suffolk since the early 1990's
- Suffolk Tree Warden Network (STWN) was established in 2017 in response to District Council cut backs, including withdrawal of training opportunities and Tree Warden coordination
- New Tree Wardens are always welcome. Our aim is to have at least one Tree Warden in every town, parish or group of small parishes in Suffolk.
- There are currently (December 2021) more than 230 Tree Wardens across all three districts (East, Babergh/Mid and West Suffolk) registered with STWN.
- STWN receives support from Suffolk County Council and The Tree Council
- STWN works in partnership with the Woodland Trust supplying trees and hedging – approx. 50,000 trees & shrubs have been planted by Tree Wardens and local volunteers over the last 4 years!!

### Do Tree Wardens have to be a Parish/Town Councillor?

Not necessarily but it can be helpful if they are. Parish/Town councils usually appoint their Tree Warden and there can be more than one Tree Warden in a parish/town. Tree Wardens often report tree related matters to their Parish/Town council on a regular basis.

### What can Tree Wardens do?

First and foremost Tree Wardens are local volunteers who care about their local trees/woods and do not need to be tree experts. Help is on hand through training modules, mentoring and other learning opportunities.

Working with their Parish or Town Council, and depending on interest, skill and time available, activities can include:

- Plant and care for trees
- Survey/monitor trees and gather information about them
- Provide early warning from threat of disease, decay, vandalism
- Get together with like minded people for training, exchanging ideas, field trips
- Set up a *Tree Nursery* using seeds collected locally, especially from native, older, well established trees such as veteran and ancient Oaks.
- Set up a *Community Wood or Community Orchard*
- Work with Parish/Town Council to provide comment on applications for works on trees, planning applications involving new developments, Tree Preservation Orders
- Work with schools and other youth groups to champion local trees and woods.

### For more information please visit:

STWN website - [www.suffolktreewardens.org.uk](http://www.suffolktreewardens.org.uk)

The Tree Council website: [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk)

Or contact Frances Jannaway, Coordinator, Suffolk Tree Warden Network

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