

Agenda Item 7

Hill Top Planting Scheme:

Now that the three trees have been felled at Hill Top it is time to look at a new planting scheme for Hill Top and the planting of a replacement tree. At the meeting of the In Bloom Group Cllr. Nike raised the matter and the general consensus was two fruit trees with a plum and a cherry being put forward by Cllr. Nike as they both have beneficial properties for insect and bird life.

As Councillors may be aware the In Bloom Group planted the edges of the site with herbs but due to the canopy of the trees the centre and slope on the site remained bare. The felling of the trees gives a blank canvas for replanting with an element of both benefit to the wildlife with some element of help yourself to herbs as you pass.

The planting scheme should make the most of plants which over time will carpet the site and reduce maintenance with emphasise being on herbs that both attract insects and birds whilst producing edible leaves/flowers/ seeds/scents. Some possible species could include:

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|-------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|
| Lavender | Thyme | Fennel | Rosemary |
| Bay | Chive | Oregano | Mint |
| Lemon Balm | Borage | Marjoram | Cicely |
| Red Current | Black Current | Other Varieties | |

It is also advisable to under-plant with the bulbs removed from the 2016 winter planting to achieve some colour in spring. It is advisable to buy small herbs in 2½in pots and grown on for two months potted on into 4in pots. The work may necessitate some preparatory work which may include selected weed killing of couch grass. The work should be started mid-May with the planting taking place in June.

Costs:

The cost for the Plum and Cherry Tree will be around £20-30 each:

Black & Red Current shrubs are £5.99 each

Mixed herbs in 2½ pots are approximately 9 for £10

The total cost of plants should not exceed £250.00 including the Plum and Cherry Tree.