

Tree Warden Report 2019

The tree warden network is supported by the Tree Council.

It is not necessary to have training to be appointed a tree warden and there are regular events when information is shared and knowledge gained from talks and seminars. The Tree Council has been in existence since 1990. They finance tree planting and the management and dissemination of information to the tree wardens around the country.

Last year was the first AGM of a re-organised tree warden network in Suffolk. As Suffolk Coastal/Waveney is no longer financing activities of tree wardens, the organization is now run locally by enthusiastic individuals. There are still links to local government including speakers at events such as the landscape officer at Waveney and the forest officer for Suffolk County Council. There have been several events through the year when tree wardens can get together, share knowledge, exchange experiences and learn about many aspects of trees and management. There will be the second AGM at Ufford at the end of April which I will be attending and I will then share information gleaned from it with the Parish Council and the wildlife group.

Tree wardens are volunteers. As well as commenting on planning matters they may promote tree planting schemes on public land, advise on such things as diseases of trees and can suggest suitable species to plant. My background is in landscape architecture so this fits in with what I do anyway. As tree warden one of my tasks is to assist the Parish Council by commenting on any planning applications which involve trees.

These are not just ones with tree preservation orders on them. Some applications involve changes such as removal of hedges or existing trees large and small and other landscape effects. The comments from the Parish Council help to inform the District Council (now Waveney) when determining planning applications and when applying conditions. For example they may prefer a development on the edge of the village to be screened by a hedge of native species to make it blend into the countryside. If large trees are taken out they may suggest the planting of replacements.

I am happy to advise anyone on care of trees and suggestions for tree planting and pruning. At present the ash dieback disease seems not to be in Waldringfield although it is not far away. I would be grateful for information if anyone has noticed this disease in our parish.

Anyone who has room in their garden or on their land for a large tree please get in touch. I am growing on some trees in pots and am able to find trees grown from local seed grown by other tree wardens. Large trees are being gradually lost from the hedgerows and gardens which contributes to the urbanisation of the village. The replacement of hedges with fences further reduces habitat for birds and insects and increases wind turbulence. Many studies now have shown the benefits of trees to human well being due to increased oxygen in the daytime and modification of climate all year round.