

Loxhore Parish Council
County Councillors Report
September 2023

Free Tree Scheme 2023/2024

This year, Devon County Council are offering free tree packs to landowners and communities within Devon, for the fifth consecutive year. Each free tree pack will contain 45 trees comprising three types of native broadleaved tree commonly found throughout Devon.

There are currently plenty of schemes and initiatives encouraging landowners and communities within Devon to plant native broadleaved trees. Doing so will help replace the vast number of ash trees that are now dying through ash dieback, as well as supporting wildlife, enhancing our landscapes for people to enjoy, and helping to reduce greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Last year, Devon County Council gave away 150 packs of free trees to landowners across Devon, thanks to the Emergency Tree Fund.

Are you eligible?

If you have a field corner or another area where you would like to establish a small copse, linear woodland or extend an existing woodland, you can apply for a free tree pack. In previous years free packs of 45 saplings containing oak, birch and rowan trees have been supplied to eligible landowners. To give trees enough space to develop a good crown and grow to maturity, we advise planting at 3m random spacings, which requires an area of approximately 400m sq. (e.g. 20m x 20m) for 45 trees.

How to make an application:

To apply, please complete our online [form](#) by 27th of September 2023. This is the deadline that would enable tree packs to be delivered in time for you to plant in National Tree Week (25th of November – 3rd of December). Applications after this date would be subject to availability. You will be notified if you have been successful before the end of October 2023 and your tree pack will be dispatched to you on a date confirmed by the tree nursery we appoint.

If you are interested in the scheme, please do not delay applying. In previous years, the scheme has been extremely popular and highly oversubscribed.

Growing Communities fund

This DCC grant aims to help local groups and organisations become more resilient and help those in the communities cope with financial pressures. Groups that are encouraged to apply include those who bring communities together for meaningful activities and social interaction, offer people a warm, safe haven or alleviate food poverty. The aim is to build self reliance and resilience within a community.

You can [complete and submit the grants application form online](#). For more information, please contact communitygrants@devon.gov.uk or telephoning [01392 383379](tel:01392 383379).

Rural Give Way marking project

This project is aiming to remark all the rural Give-Way and Stop markings across the whole of the County. In addition to simply remarking them DCC are using a more robust product that will improve the life-expectancy and lead to a lower whole life cost and reduced carbon cost.

There are approximately 6,000 rural Give-Way markings that will be treated. For your information there is another 1,500 in our market and coastal towns. The project is estimated to take 4-5 years to complete.

Lining works to include:

To remove existing markings and refresh

- single dashed white lines
- double dashed white lines
- stop lines
- give way triangles
- up to 5 centre lines from the junction

Reminder of how to report a Highway issue;

[Report a problem - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](#)

[0345 155 1004](tel:0345 155 1004)

Live chat is available on the Highways website Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 12 pm and 2 pm to 4.30 pm (4 pm on Fridays). To report a problem with road maintenance, traffic management and parking, streetlights and signs and public rights of way

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