

Mereworth: Should we plant some trees along the A228 hedgerow?

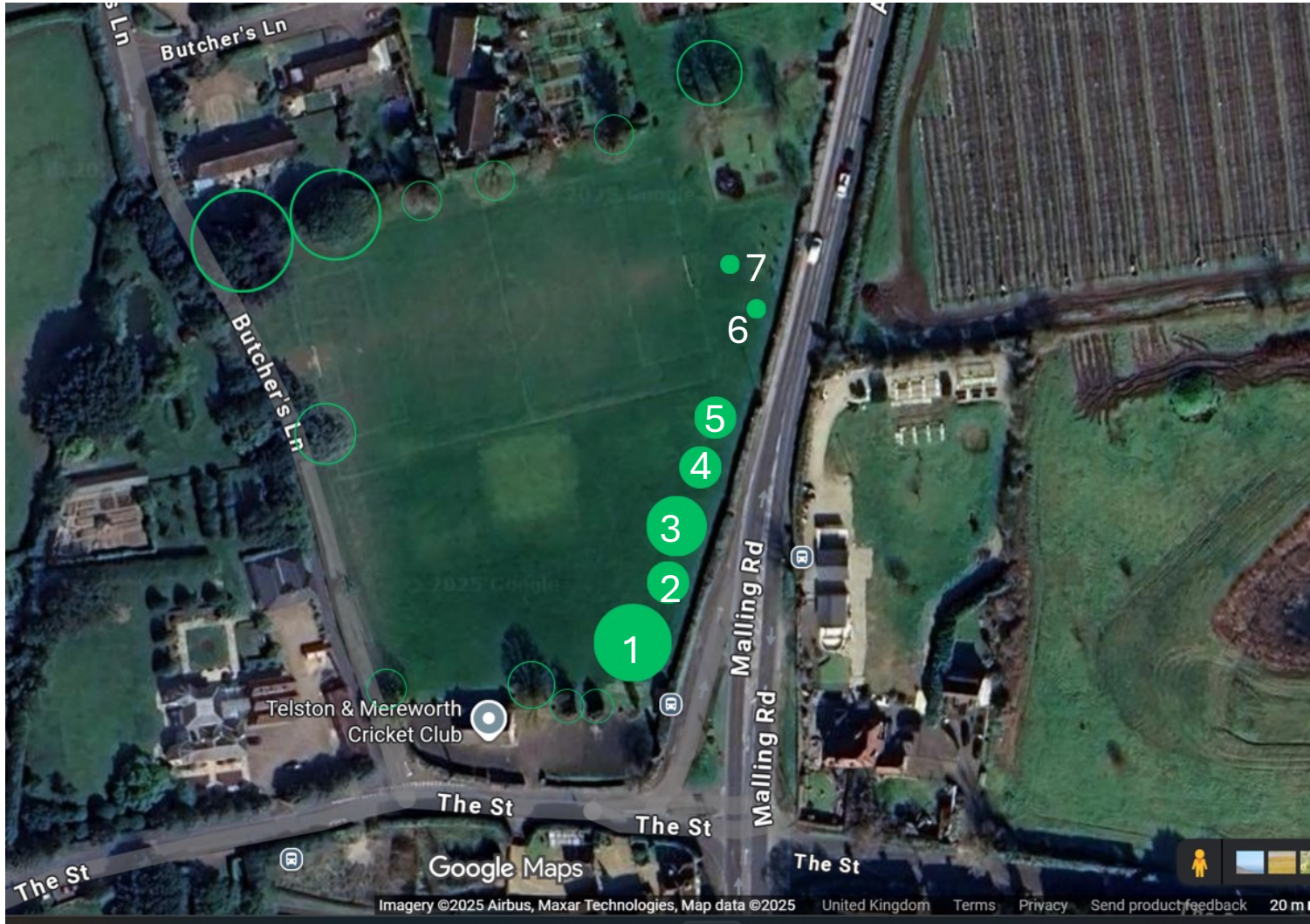


There are lovely mature trees alongside Butchers Lane and across the back of The Close, but on the east side of the QEII Jubilee Field there's just hedging and we can see the tops of lorries and buses passing along the busy Malling Road.

Should we plant some trees along here?

- Make the playing field more attractive
- Reduce traffic impact
- Help slow/prevent sports balls passing onto A228
- Reduce glare for cricket players
- Create shade in summer
- Wind break
- Good for wildlife
- Sentimental connection
- Offset Carbon

Aerial view of Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Field – proposed planting plan with scale



Scale plan with tree canopies at
maximum mature size

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 7 Yoshino cherry | w4m/h6m |
| 6 Yoshino cherry | |
| 5 Wild Service Tree | w10m/h15-25m |
| 4 Sweet Gum | w10m/h10-15m |
| 3 Field Maple | w10-15m/h12m |
| 2 Rowan | w10m/h10-15m |
| 1 Oak | w20m/h30m |

Existing tree canopies have been circled with a green ring so we can compare the sizes.



Conical shape and striking range of autumn colours. There is a Sweet Gum as you go into Wateringbury – it's on the right just after the church at the junction of Upper Mill.

Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) Height 10-15m; breadth 10m



Field Maple
Height 12m;
breadth 10-15m round crown



Wild Service Tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) in autumn



Rowan (Mountain Ash)
Height 10-15m; breadth 10m.
White flowers in May, orange or red berries in autumn.



Wild Service Tree is found in ancient woodland and has blossom in spring and fruits in autumn that are called chequers. Good for insects. Height 15-25m; breadth 10m



English Oak
Height 30m, breadth 20m

Yoshino cherry (*Prunus x yedoensis*)



Small 4m wide x 6m high after 25 years

During spring, *Prunus yedoensis* produces an abundance of blushed pink buds that eventually open to white, fragrant blossoms. Provides ample shade in summer. Lifespan 30 years. Needs well-drained soil.



Yoshino trees in Herne Hill

Collingwood “Cherry” Ingram, based in Benenden, was responsible for saving and reintroducing the great white cherry to Japan.

This year is the Victory in Japan 80th anniversary; trees would look good for the 100th anniversary.

Considerations

Selection of trees

- Chris Keeler has advised the Parish Council on the selection of trees shown in this display (except the Japanese Cherries).
- Mix of native and non-native trees is proposed to ensure longevity if the climate changes.
- Mix of autumn colour/interest as well as spring blossom is proposed.
- Other suggestions could be to have only native trees and/or only trees with a connection to Kent.
- Trees could be donated in celebration of someone or something.

Practicalities

- Cricket Club and football players support the plan; they worry about balls passing onto Malling Road and this could help prevent that.
- The trees even at maturity would not encroach on the football pitch.
- Hedge-cutting can still take place with a tractor.
- There would likely be some tree maintenance costs in the future.
- Each sapling would need a cage around it when young to protect it from damage.

Questions & Comments

Do you like this idea? Do you have views on the proposed design? Would you be interested in dedicating a tree? Do you have further questions?

You can write your comments here or fill in the short survey at the QR code or email clerk@mereworthparishcouncil.gov.uk



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