



Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council

Non-confidential

Community Orchard Tree Planting Opportunity

Report to: Planning and Development Committee

Meeting Date: 19 August 2026

Report by: Assistant Clerk

Power/duty which decision falls under:

Local Government Act 1972, Section 142 (provision of information and encouragement of community participation)

Local Government Act 1972, Section 111 (power to do anything conducive or incidental to the discharge of functions)

Open Spaces Act 1906 ss.9-10; Local Government Act 1972 ss.111 and 137.

Which council objective(s) it falls under:

- Maintain and improve community facilities and amenities
- Protect and enhance our green spaces and street scene
- Preserve and enhance heritage assets, environmental assets and wildlife
- Retain and encourage employment and tourism opportunities
- Improve the well-being of residents
- Respond to planning consultations in-line with the NDP, to meet the needs of the community and addressing any transport impacts
- To foster public participation and engagement
- To recognise the climate and biodiversity emergency and it should be considered as the basis of all decision and policy making

SUMMARY:

The Parish Council has been invited to express an interest in the Woodland Trust and Lincolnshire County Council's Linc Woods Community Orchard Scheme.

The scheme offers a minimum of five free orchard trees, together with tree protection measures, for suitable community sites. Planting is proposed for early 2027 following site assessments.

Members are requested to consider whether the Council wishes to participate in the scheme and identify potential locations for further investigation.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Members are recommended to:

1. Support the submission of an expression of interest to the Woodland Trust/LincWoods Community Orchard Scheme.
2. Agree the preferred locations for further investigation:
Ashfield Grange Green Space; Daubeney Green Space;
The green space between Westcroft and Church Road; and
Suitable locations along existing or proposed avenue planting schemes, including Torksey Avenue.
3. Request that officers liaise with the Woodland Trust regarding site suitability, species selection and future maintenance requirements before any final planting locations are agreed.
4. Receive a further report once site assessments and planting proposals have been completed

Public Sector Equality Duty:

Consider how policies/decisions affect those protected under the Equality Act)

The proposal is not expected to have any negative impact on persons with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

Any planting proposals will be assessed to ensure they do not adversely affect accessibility, visibility or access to public open spaces.

Duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity:

The proposal supports the Council's duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity through the planting of orchard trees which will provide habitat, food sources and ecological benefits for wildlife and pollinators

Consideration on carbon reduction:

Tree planting contributes positively to carbon sequestration and supports the Council's commitment to addressing the climate and biodiversity emergency.

Impact on staff:

Low.

Officer time will be required to submit an expression of interest, liaise with the Woodland Trust and coordinate any future site visits and planting proposals

Does the report consider any new activity? If 'Yes', has a risk assessment, including risk management proposals, been included for consideration and adoption by the council?

(Financial Regulation 17b)

Yes

Consideration of risk management in relation to the proposal¹

It is impossible to list every risk faced by a local council. Risk, in the general sense, means the likelihood of an event happening, and the severity of the negative consequences. The insurance industry regards risk as representing loss or damage. Risk always involves uncertainty. When protecting a local council effectively, it is important to consider if risk is present in the following areas:

¹Risk areas to consider - strategic/operational, likelihood/impact, add to risk register? Any contingency planning needed?



Risk Area	Risk Present/ Description?	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Rating	Mitigation & Contingency
Decision Making / Strategic	Unsuitable site selected or project not aligned with community expectations.	Low	Low	Low	
Finances	Future maintenance costs may arise after establishment period.	Low	Medium	Low	
Property	Tree roots, branches or fallen fruit could cause future issues if poorly located.	Low	Medium	Low	
Staff / Operational	Additional officer and grounds staff time required.	Low	Low	Low	
Legal	Potential liability if trees are not maintained appropriately.	Low	Medium	Low	
Written/Verbal Communication	Public concerns regarding location or management of trees.	Low	Low	Low	

Risk Area	Risk Present/ Description?	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Rating	Mitigation & Contingency
Insurance	Additional assets may require recording for insurance purposes	Low	Low	Low	
Inspection / Events	Tree failure, vandalism or damage during establishment period.	Low	Medium	Low	

REPORT

Background

The Parish Council has been contacted by the External Affairs Officer at the Woodland Trust, regarding a tree planting initiative through the Linc Woods partnership with Lincolnshire County Council.

The scheme offers communities a minimum of five orchard trees free of charge, including protective guards. Larger community orchard schemes may also be considered where suitable land is available. Planting is anticipated to take place in early 2027, following site identification and assessment visits.

The Woodland Trust is particularly encouraging the planting of traditional county apple varieties. In addition, 2027 marks the 300th anniversary of the death of Sir Isaac Newton, and the Trust has indicated that discussions around planting Flower of Kent apple trees, which have historical links to Lincolnshire and are associated with Newton, would be welcomed.

The scheme is not limited to apple trees and may include other fruit and nut tree species such as plum, cherry, walnut, and almond, subject to availability.

Potential Planting Locations

Initial suggestions from officers include:

Ashfield Grange Green Space (currently considered underutilised)
 Daubeney Green Space
 Green space/cut-through between Westcroft and Church Road
 Areas along existing avenue planting schemes, including Torksey Avenue

Members may wish to note that avenue planting could provide a community benefit by enabling residents to enjoy fruit or nut trees within their neighbourhoods.

Considerations

Suitability of each site, including available space and future maintenance requirements.

Impact on existing recreational use of the land.

Whether further avenue planting locations across the parish should be considered.

Potential community engagement opportunities associated with a parish orchard or commemorative Newton-themed planting.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

Consider whether the Parish Council wishes to express an interest in the Woodland Trust/LincWoods orchard tree scheme.

Identify preferred locations for planting.

Authorise officers to submit an expression of interest and liaise with the Woodland Trust regarding site assessments and planting proposals.

Officer Comment: The scheme presents an opportunity to increase biodiversity and enhance green spaces within the parish at no cost for the trees themselves, whilst creating a potential community asset through the provision of fruit and nut trees.