

I would like to propose that we have a permanent Christmas tree planted on the village green. The main reason for this is sustainability as every year we cut down a tree that is at least 15 foot tall this would make the tree at least 15 years old as they grow on average 1 foot per year. The tree is then put up on the green for around 3 weeks then it is recycled. If we had a 8-10 foot tree planted on the green we would not have to replace for at least 5 years – or later depending on how tall we let it grow.

This would also be a benefit as at the moment the Christmas tree is collected by the same two people and put up by the same 4 volunteers every year. It also has to be checked on a daily basis to make sure that it is still stable with weather conditions. The type of tree I would propose is a Serbian Spruce this is a type of fir tree and would suit the location of the green as it is hardy and also it would not be easy for people to climb.

The location would be in the area where the Christmas tree normally goes as there is still room for carols around the tree and it would not get in the way of events such as the village fete.

I propose two different types of trees for the council/villagers to decide on the one they prefer these are:

1 The Scots Pine is evergreen and the only native conifer in the UK. A moderate to slow-growing large tree is not suitable for small gardens but will grow in most soils. *Pinus sylvestris* is a popular conifer with grey-green needles and hosts many grey-brown pine cones. *Pinus sylvestris* Premium Standard Tree, 10-12cm girth approx 2.5-3.0m 45L pot* £270.00 (inc VAT) from Ornamental Trees Ltd T: 01943 660870 E: sales@ornamental-trees.co.uk on pre order ready from end of August.

2 Serbian Spruce introduced into the UK in the 1880s. This lovely tree has immature cones are purple tinged before they open up brown. *Picea omorika* is a lovely statuesque tree with a slender columnar habit and is ideal for large gardens or parkland. It flushes a light green before the foliage hardens to a deeper green in the summer. Cost would be £257.00 1.5-2.0 meter tree from Barcham Trees Plc, Eye Hill Drive, Ely, Cambridgeshire.

Both trees would need to be staked so that they grow straight. There has been an anonymous donor from the village who will cover the cost if not I suggest that the parish council pay for it as it will be on our land and it was always tradition that the council always used to pay for the Christmas tree.

I hope that this proposal will be put forward and either agreed with by the council or be put forward to the village via the village news so that the community could have their say on location or if someone knows of a different type of tree.

If this is agreed and goes ahead I would suggest that the tree is purchased and planted September time as this will help the tree with the wetter months.

