

Item 14b – Full Council 17th November 2021

On 2021-10-18 14:17, Forus Tree wrote:

Good afternoon Colin,

Ben Fenton passed on your details as a possible source of funding to assist with a proposed community tree nursery project in Todmorden.

I'm contacting you on behalf of Forus Tree, a not for profit workers cooperative founded to bring about positive environmental change in the Calder Valley and beyond, working with landowners, local councils and trusts on environmental projects at the heart of the community. Its mission is to plant, manage, promote and protect woodland, wildflower and wildlife habitats with the aim of increasing biodiversity and access to woodland for the enjoyment of local communities and future generations.

Since establishing in January 2020, Forus Tree have planted over 42,000 trees around Calderdale and established a small community tree nursery at a site on Daisy Bank in Mytholmroyd as well as numerous other projects including building leaky dams, cleaning flood and river debris from over 3 km of the River Calder and protecting tree planting sites with stock or deer fencing. We've had volunteers come and help us prepare the site, sow the seeds, maintain the trees and keep away the weeds every Friday. We've successfully managed to grow 5 varieties so far with others currently germinating and we've managed to gradually increase our regular volunteers that come and enjoy a day out doing something positive and making new friends.

Although the current tree nursery site boasts wonderful views and a lovely hike up a hill, unfortunately the site isn't perfect and has its limitations with water from a natural spring. It's also not as accessible as we'd like it to be due to not having any vehicular access to bring volunteers with restricted mobility and creates problems with getting compost and other materials to site. We have also used up all our current allocated space by the landowner and creating additional space at this site would be problematic for various reasons.

We have recently identified a suitable site currently on the market in Todmorden (£75,000 guide price) which we're hoping to buy to upscale our tree nursery so we can collect and grow the wide variety of trees that we desperately need to be part of our landscape to improve biodiversity and natural flood management in the area. We want to create an inclusive and educational space for volunteers to take part in a wide variety of tasks and activities to improve their local environment, social life and mental well being. We have recently started our own seed collecting and will continue doing this with volunteers. The seeds will be processed (stratified, germinated), sown, lovingly maintained and cared for by volunteers and hopefully also planted with volunteers on local tree planting sites and hedging projects to be enjoyed for generations.

We do plan to keep our existing tree nursery Friday volunteer day at Daisy Bank and hopefully if possible we would like to have another regular day at the site in

Todmorden which would be easily accessible including with vehicular access and parking on site or by foot as it's only 1.1 mile away from the train station.

Would the town council consider assisting us with funding or do you have any suggestions on where we might get funding for something like this?

I hope to hear from you soon.

Kind regards,

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