

# PRESS RELEASE

## JENKINS LANE WOODLAND PROJECT

### HEADLINE: CALL FOR TREE PLANTING VOLUNTEERS!

A partnership between Bishop's Stortford Town Council, Bishop's Stortford Climate Group and Essex County Council has resulted in the Forestry Commission providing a grant of £18,545 to plant 1,500 new trees in a field in Jenkins Lane. The Land is owned by the Town Council and already partly used by local beekeepers and by the Council to dispose of green waste safely.

The new community woodland will cover roughly a hectare of land and will be planted with a range of native trees. It will be open to the public and will have pathways and interpretation boards. The planting will include native Black Poplar, a tree which is sadly in decline in the UK.

The aim is to start planting on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and the Council is calling for interested volunteers to come and help. If you can help, please email the following address providing your name and availability on these dates:

**[volunteer@bishopsstortfordtc.gov.uk](mailto:volunteer@bishopsstortfordtc.gov.uk)**

Full details including start and finish times will be provided on registration. Volunteers will need to wear sturdy boots and bring waterproof gardening gloves and coat/over trousers. All other necessary equipment will be on site. The Council has some PPE and has produced a risk assessment for the planting.

The Community Woodland is being planted because of the environmental and community benefits it will bring:

- Absorbing carbon dioxide to combat climate change
- Providing homes for wildlife
- Boosting the number of Black Poplars, which are an endangered native species
- Creating health and wellbeing benefits for visitors to the woodland
- Improving the appearance of this local space
- Helping to prevent flooding

The Council is also working with the Bishop's Stortford Climate Group on other spaces for Community Orchards.

**Media Distribution**

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