

Essex Forest Initiative:

The Essex Forest Initiative is a project that was announced by the leader of the Essex County Council, Councillor David Finch on the 8th October 2019. It involves a commitment to planting 375,000 trees across Essex within 5 years; an immediate and tangible way in which we can show our commitment to tackling climate change and reducing our carbon footprint.

The trees will be planted on Essex County Council land as well as land from voluntary sector partners, parish councils and private landowners. The next phase of planting is scheduled to take place in the next planting season from November to March 2021, so long as government guidelines allow.

To meet these targets, we will need help from various groups and organisations across the county. This will include districts and boroughs, individuals, schools, organisations, and parish councils. The first parish council to get involved with the initiative was Great Dunmow. On Saturday the 21st of March, residents of Little Dunmow planted 50 sapling trees on recreational land within the village. The saplings, bamboo stakes and rabbit-proof sheaths used in the planting were provided for free.

We welcome interest and involvement from any Essex parish as long as they plan to plant on land owned by the parish, have the volunteers to help plant the saplings and are willing to look after the trees into the future. Essex County Council offers to supply the trees, offer any advice parishes may require and can even aide in applying for grants for bigger sites over several acres.

To get involved in planting trees in your parish, please fill out the following survey to let us know about the size and location of your planting: <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/waste-environment/essex-forest-initiative-parish-survey/>. We will then make contact over the summer months, however, please be aware that depending on government guidelines our planting plans may vary.