

## **Dinting Lane Orchard Development Plan**

### **Background**

- In recent years community orchards have become increasingly popular largely due to the campaign run by the environmental charity Common Ground, to encourage local distinctiveness and save old varieties of fruit trees.
- Within the High Peak Community Orchards have been developed or are in the process of being planned in New Mills, Hayfield and Glossop.

### **Proposals**

- To develop the proposed orchard for Autumn/Winter 2015/16. Tie in with national campaigns such as 'Apple Day' and National tree Planting week.
- Initial funding via HPBC.
- The precise details of the development and future management of the orchard area are to be agreed with Glossop Action for Allotments (GAFA) and will be part of their lease agreement.
- HPBC will work with Glossopdale Action for Allotments, volunteers from the local community and other bodies such as local schools, environmental organisations to develop the orchard project including exploring further funding options, maintenance work and historical and cultural research.
- 'Apple Day' 2015 - plan an event etc.

### **Aims of community Orchard**

- Environmental awareness – using local produce.
- Reflect and celebrate local distinctiveness by planting local and unusual varieties.
- Food and environmental education - links with national curriculum.
- Involving community to look after their local environment and linking different community groups.
- Improve biodiversity & landscape, aesthetic appeal of the site.
- Manage the site to be as self sustaining as possible with minimum maintenance required.

### **Historical context**

- North Derbyshire not naturally a big fruit growing area, almost certainly due to its climate. However there would have been some small orchards supplying the local community.

- Apples are traditionally considered the main orchard crop although a variety of other fruit trees such as pears and plums would also be planted. There are some varieties of apple local to Derbyshire or with connections to High Peak and plums and damsons grow wild in the area and have also be cultivated. Planting local varieties would reflect local distinctiveness.

## **Proposed Site**

- An area of under used pasture land at the western end of the site has been designated for use as a communal orchard (See Layout Plan g1.121). Some of the steeper bankings behind the trading estate which are unsuitable for cultivation could also be planted with fruit bushes and trees.
- The area is open, undulating land, sloping down to the river consisting of meadow grasses and remnant thorn shrubs and one large mature oak.
- It is bounded to the south by Dinting Industrial Estate & the Glossop Brook & to the east by Dinting Lane. A public right of way, Glossop 140, runs along the northern perimeter of the site. Other public rights of way, Glossop 62 & 64, dissect the western third of the site but will not be affected by the proposed orchard.
- Tenure: Owned by High Peak Borough Council and to be leased to Glossopdale Action for Allotments for ? Years.
- Legal Right of Access: The general public currently has no right of access onto the land except via public rights of way Glossop 140 & Glossop 62 & 64.

## **Funding**

- The cost of developing the project in the first year would be approximately £3000 (see separate document). This will be funded from HPBC resources.
- Additional funds will be required to expand the project. It is envisaged that GAFA would lead in developing and maintaining the orchard into the future and it would form part of their lease agreement. Potentially a bid could be made to 'Awards for all' although other suitable grants may also be available.

## **Design**

The orchard area shown on the plan will be planted with trees at 6m spacing. However the whole area is not suitable for tree planting. The existing trees are to be retained and will create an area of shade that will not be suitable for growing fruit trees. Consideration will need to be given to the way leave required by the over head wires. Although the trees planted are not likely to reach a height were they will impact on the over head wires it would be prudent to use the way-leaves as

rides/paths through the orchard area. Given this I consider that there is space for around 50 trees.

The areas planted with trees will be planted in lines in a grid formation to allow ease of access for grass maintenance and fruit collection.

All stock will be planted on M106 root stock. This is a semi dwarfing rootstock that will ensure that the trees that are planted remain at reasonable height and do not require significant long term maintenance. A list of species of fruit trees that are suitable for planting is attached. This includes heritage species from Derbyshire and neighbouring counties.

### **General Principals:**

1. All tree planting is to be agreed in writing with High Peak Borough Council prior to being undertaken.
2. The trees will be managed in accordance with the Tree Policy, other Council policies & the Allotment Association Lease.
3. As the planting of the orchard will comprise part of the landscaping required as part of any planning consent granted, the Council will contribute a percentage of the cost of planting the trees.
3. The orchard is a community resource and fruit will be available for collection by allotment holders and private individuals from the wider community as the Council will contribute towards its establishment and it would not be practical to prevent the fruit being freely available. However the council would retain this legal right to the fruit that the trees produce so that in the event that the fruit was collected and used for commercial gain to the detriment of this resource of the allotment holders and wider community action could be taken as appropriate.