

Bolsover Community Woodlands Newsletter

July 2022

Bolsover
District Council

Issue 1

We have produced this newsletter to update local residents and stakeholders with the latest information on our Community Woodlands Projects.

Introducing our new Project Officer

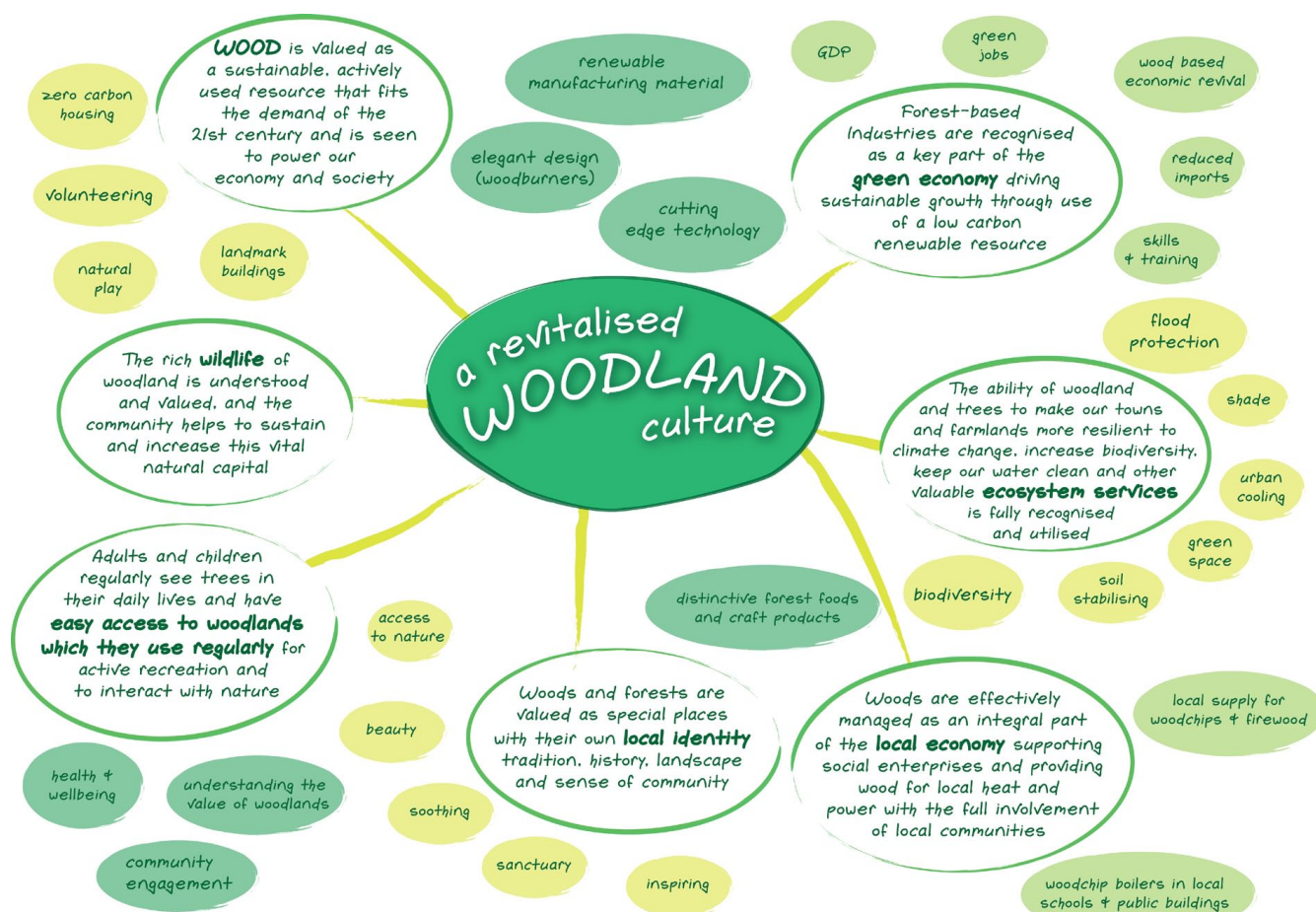
Hi my name is Katherine and I am your new Community Woodlands Project Officer. I started in May and have been busy getting myself up to speed on the background to this exciting project and what has been achieved so far.

My job is to help deliver the project, talk to communities to find out how you want to get involved and find a way to work together to make our ambitions a reality.

Over the next few weeks I will be looking to visit any interested Parish Councils, local schools, community groups and businesses to talk to you about the project and see what opportunities for tree planting exist. I am really excited to meet as many of you as possible and look forward to hearing all of your ideas.



So what do community woodlands offer you?



The above diagram illustrates the many benefits woodlands offer.

Source: Independent Panel on Forestry Final Report which can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3umesr9>

How it all started

We are concerned about Climate Change and how it will impact our ability to manage water in the landscape and grow our food, as well as threatening our wildlife. We want to do what we can to protect our area from its negative effects

Because of this concern we developed an eight part Carbon Reduction Plan. Planting more trees will be a big part of helping the area to reduce its overall carbon emissions.

Trees are an effective way to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it as solid carbon in their wood, their roots and in the soil. Less greenhouse gas in the atmosphere means less global warming.

Discussions with the Woodland Trust commenced in January 2020 and we were delighted to be included in a pilot project known as “The Woodland Trust Emergency Tree Fund” designed to give more local communities the green spaces on their doorsteps that are desperately needed, and which have been shown to be so important for people.



“We all have a responsibility to help combat climate change”
Councillor Duncan McGregor,
Deputy Leader of Bolsover
District Council

Meet the people involved



Chris McKinney

The driving force behind the project so far. Preparing the successful bid to The Woodland Trust, bringing all the partners together and getting the first trees ordered and in the ground in December 2021.



Welbeck Estate

Welbeck Estate have agreed that the “Creswell Stack” can be used to develop a Community Woodland for local people and wildlife to enjoy.



The Woodland Trust Charity

The Woodland Trust Charity are funding our new trees as part of their recently announced ambitious aim to establish 50 million more trees by 2025 to help tackle both the nature and climate crises.



Landscape Architect DSA Environment and Design

Dave Singleton and his team have drawn up plans for a wonderful woodland designed for people and wildlife using local tree species that will fit naturally into the landscape.



Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise

This local Community Interest Company have planted 6000 trees for us between the Fox Green and Creswell Stack planting sites.



Katherine Church

Your new Community Woodlands Project Officer will be out and about in your communities shortly helping you to start your school, town or village tree planting projects and organising fun woodland and tree themed activities.

Lark Rise Woods

A new community woodland for Creswell

Creswell was chosen as the site for a beautiful new flagship Community Woodland called Lark Rise Woods. This is a large scale project that will lead the way, serving as an example for what can be achieved and inspiring further projects in our local area and across the country.



The people of Creswell, their children and grandchildren will have this incredible woodland on their doorstep and stand to learn so much from getting involved in its creation and care and having a say in how the services it will offer are shaped now and for generations to come.

The woodland design will include places for children to play and learn, space for family leisure activities and potential opportunities to provide products that stimulate the local economy.



It will also give shade from the heat of the summer sun, shelter from the winter winds and rain and will help to filter and reduce any surface water run-off and minimise flooding risk during periods of heavy rainfall. In addition, attracting more people outdoors to spend time in the natural environment will improve people's mental and physical health.

What we have achieved so far



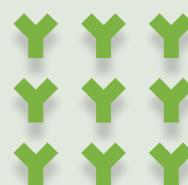
25 HECTARES

Land agreed for new community woodland



£269,160

Funding secured from The Woodland Trust



6,200

Trees planted

What's next

We are now putting together our planting plans for the winter and in addition to Creswell we want to see tree planting projects across the District.

We are keen to understand the views of residents and parish councils around the subject of new trees and woodlands and find out what their priorities are in term of the benefits they would like to enjoy from these improvements.

This could be enhanced leisure opportunities, improved provision for nature and wildlife; physical products such as local wood for retail or manufacturing purposes, firewood provision or fruit and nuts for foraging; educational opportunities or eco system services such as flood alleviation, filtration of water run off, cleaner air, shelter for livestock or arable land and last but not least helping to combat global warming.

Watch this space for community events coming soon



How you can help us

- Tell us about your ideas and priorities for your area.
- Talk to people in your community about the project.
- Put us in touch with businesses and organisations who might have land to plant or personnel wanting to help with community planting days.
- Help us build a contacts list of schools, community and youth groups in your area, especially those with some sort of environmental remit.
- Volunteer to plant some trees or help look after them.

It would be heartwarming to see everyone getting behind this project and understanding how important it is for our future and how beautiful it will become if we can just nurse it through these initial stages and all look out for those little trees.



Pictures provided courtesy of Nature Explorers Derbyshire Forest School

How we can help you

We can visit businesses, schools and community groups and attend Parish Council meetings to provide:

- Tree themed activities
- Talks about the project
- Surveys of possible planting sites large or small
- Guidance on tree species selection
- Advice on grant funding and procurement of trees and tree protection

Watch this space for news of further opportunities for schools and community groups

Get in touch

I am here to answer all your questions about these projects and get as many of you actively involved as possible, be that telling us what you would like it to look like, taking water across to the trees, planting some, or just spreading the word about their benefits.

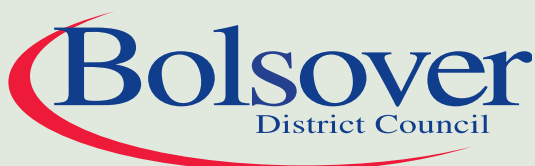
Please come and talk to me when you see me out and about and be on the look out for upcoming events on Fox Green and in local schools!



Katherine Church, Bolsover Community Woodlands Project Officer

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Creating a cleaner, greener community.