



Correspondence:

**Reference: Ash Dieback Project, replanting scheme.**

In June 2020 GCC Highways launched the Ash Dieback Project to start to tackle the effects of the disease within the county. The disease also known as Chalara is caused by a fungus which affects the vascular system of Ash trees and can kill young specimens very rapidly. Older trees can resist for longer but are likely to shed limbs, become unstable and are extremely likely to die.

During the three years, GCC Highways managed to remove **12,640** infected Ash Trees which posed a danger to highway users. With an aim of replanting at least two trees for every diseased tree felled.

During the last three planting season a total of **40,597** trees were planted by **March 2023**, either by our Ash Dieback team or through providing young trees to Parish Councils.

**Local Parish Councils Replanting**

The replanting season runs between **November and March**, we would encourage the local parish councils to use their local knowledge and expertise to assist us in identifying suitable areas within your community where replanting can be undertaken. If practical we would be looking at planting in groups of mixed native whips (young tree seedlings 2-3 years old) rather than larger specimen trees, but we can consider all requests.

Within the capacity of the Ash Dieback Project, we currently have two options available;

1. Submit areas to be considered for replanting on highways land by the Ash Dieback Team.
2. Submit a request for whips / trees to be donated to the parish council, to plant themselves within the community.

**If you would like to submit a request for trees to be planted during November 2023 to March 2024, please complete the attached form, and return to [ashdieback@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:ashdieback@gloucestershire.gov.uk) by 01/09/2023.**

This planting work is being undertaken in addition to the County Council's existing pledge on tree planting.

**Tree Warden Scheme**

GCC are in process of setting up Gloucestershire Tree Warden scheme with the Tree Council, if you wish to become a tree warden or wish to find out more, please email [TreeWardenScheme@Gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:TreeWardenScheme@Gloucestershire.gov.uk).

#### Forest of Dean Waste Contract:

Councillors have agreed to award the delivery of the Council's kerbside waste and recycling collection service to Ubico Ltd when the current contract comes up for renewal next summer.

The move will see an end to the District Council's partnership with waste contractor Biffa, with the expectation that existing staff will transfer over to the new service provider, protecting local jobs.

Alongside this, the Council has recently purchased the Old Brickworks in Cinderford with £1.6m of capital funding being committed to cover the initial development of the site, paving the way for a new and expanded waste depot.

The decision to move to Ubico and invest in its own depot will give the Council greater flexibility to respond to new waste legislation and the opportunity to make efficiencies to reduce the carbon footprint of the services it delivers for local residents.