

Wychwoods Community Wood

Sadly, the proposal for a Community Wood for the Wychwoods at Dog Kennel Lane, Shipton, will not proceed.

Readers will know that Mr Gorton, the owner of the adjacent Wild Garden, had objected to the proposal on the grounds that this new tree planting might dry up the stream which passes through his wooded property. Despite expert advice to the contrary, in particular from the Environment Agency – who did not consider that our woodland proposal would have any significant effect on the amount of water rising from the spring and therefore on the Wild Garden – Mr Gorton was not prepared to withdraw his objection. As we are anxious not to jeopardize the existing access currently available at the Wild Garden, the Woodland Trust has decided not to pursue this particular site

It must be made clear that in all other respects we are in a position to proceed with the purchase of the site and the planting of the community wood, for which many local people have worked so hard. West Oxfordshire District Council have made a substantial grant towards the cost of the scheme, and pledges slightly in excess of the target of £16,565 have already been received. Through the Woodland Trust's Woods on your Doorstep scheme these sums would have been matched by funds from the Millennium Commission, ensuring that this community wood was planted before the year 2,000 as a local celebration of the Millennium

If we can find another site soon, it is just possible that we can still make use of all this generous support. We are actively looking for alternative sites. The aim is to create a wood owned and managed by the Woodland Trust in perpetuity with public access for the local community. Such a site should be about ten acres in size, convenient for Milton, Shipton and Ascott, with a public footpath adjacent. Access for off-road vehicles would be helpful, to assist maintenance. Clearly the Dog Kennel Lane site, owned by John Hartley, was excellent on these criteria, and what we require is a similar site elsewhere in the community preferably with an owner as helpful and sympathetic to our project as Mr Hartley.

If you have any suggestions please give me a call.

Charles Keighley, 01993 831403

W.O.D.C. SKIPS FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Ascott	16th	September	Maple Way	
Milton	26th	August	Church Road	Reade Close
	30th	September	"	Jubilee Lane
Shipton	9th	September	Ballards Close,	Ascott Road