PROJECT	**Coppice Woodland**
LEADER / PARTNERS	Town or parish council (This example from Stroud Town Council Green Spaces Team)
COUNCIL POWERS	Localism Act 2011 s137
FUNDING SOURCES	CPRE Gloucestershire's Tree Planting Fund
ADVICE / USEFUL CONTACTS	https://www.cpreglos.org.uk/get-involved/funding-for-parish-councils-and-community-groups-for-tree-planting/
Requirements:	
SKILLS	Proper tree planting experience/landscaping
RESOURCES	Tree management tools
MATERIALS	Planting density is around 2.0 – 2.5 metre spacings so achieving around 1,600-2,500 trees and shrubs per hectare.
PERMISSION	None required on council land
CONTRACTORS	Arborist, planting specialist, groundsmen, labourers.
Steps to Success:	1. Consultation with a qualified arborist and planting specialist for your area 2. For our area (Cotswold Escarpment) we used minor tree and shrub species include dogwood (Cornus sangineau), hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna), spindle (Euonymous europaeus), holly (Ilex aquifolium), common privet (Ligustrum vulgare), crab apple (Malus sylvestris), wild service tree (Sorbus torminalis), yew (Taxus baccata), wayfaring tree (Viburnam lantana) and guelder rose (Viburnam opulus). Various shrub species frequent some of the edges, including dogwood, hawthorn, spindle, wayfaring tree and guelder rose. 3. Even in a very small space it is possible to use woodland design principles to enhance the benefits for people and wildlife. 4. Edge habitat is of very high value for wildlife and so a path has been incorporated through each copse, with shrubby edges creating a softening exterior and providing further niches for various species of insects and birds. 5. To create a more natural looking and feeling environment, planting has been as random as possible. The more shade-tolerant species have been placed where sunlight is in shorter supply. 6. The main species have been planted in small single-species blocks. Each block is from between 10 and 30 trees. This method has been favoured over a more 'intimate' species mix to protect the slower growing species from being shaded out by those quicker growing, and to allow rotational coppicing by species group. 7. Bare rooted seedlings of between 1 and 2 years old have mainly been used, and depending on species, ranging from 30- 100cm tall. Small planting stock like this, with a balanced root-shoot ratio is likely to give the best long-term results. Planting ahead of Christmas gives the plants a chance to settle into the new home through the winter dormancy. 8. The seedlings were dipped in a solution of 'mycorrhizal fungi' - creating a symbiotic beneficial relationship between the trees and

	fungi, whereby the fungi reach for and provide nutrients for the tree roots in return for sugars. 9. The initial three years are crucial for young trees and shrubs to be protected against damage from mammals, weed competition and drought. In the recent past this has usually entailed the use of plastic tree shelters or guards, and regular use of herbicide to control weeds around each plant. 10. We have opted to protect most species (except evergreen holly and yew) from rabbit or vole damage using 60cm tall spiral guards, held with stout bamboo canes. We have added 50 x 50cm jute mulch mats and a layer of our own composted woodchip mulch. The mats and mulch will protect against competition from grasses and other weeds and maximise water availability through the summer months. This avoids the need to use herbicide. 11. All materials used for tree protection are plastic-free. The spiral guards are plant-based and bamboo is used to secure these and to peg down the jute mats. All materials will gradually break down over time with no harmful legacy.
ECONOMIC BASIS	This helps the planet and is now becoming increasingly recognised as a strong economic value.
COMMUNITY BENEFIT	• Creates pleasant places to walk or simply take-five. • These new copses will provide opportunities for education and learning about our natural world and for volunteers to help with the task of managing the sites through coppicing. • Trees and shrubs increase oxygen levels, fundamental to good health. Urban areas often have less oxygen than rural settings, so any increases are beneficial. • Urban areas can get very hot due to the amount of concrete and tarmac. With potentially more summer heatwaves a strong likelihood, we can thank trees for helping to reduce the temperature by transpiring water vapour from their foliage, as well as providing welcome shade. • Trees and shrubs filter out toxic pollution from our air, creating a healthier atmosphere for us all • Spending time in and near trees is well known to lift spirits and improve our mental wellbeing. • This proximity to the natural world can help reduce cortisol in our brains, which reduces levels of stress and anxiety. • Whether using the area for dog-walking, a cut-through or as a destination for some quiet time or play, the addition of trees and shrubs adds to both the structural diversity and overall enjoyment of the area.
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	• These modest areas of woodland will provide valuable food, shelter and movement resources for many different species of insects, birds and mammals. • All of the tree guards and mulch mats used are made from natural materials, so the trees will be protected through their establishment period without the need for plastics or herbicides. • By splitting the woodland into smaller sub-compartments, we will have trees and shrubs at differing stages of growth at different times, so providing various niches for differing species of wildlife. • Over time, areas just cut will provide favourable conditions for woodland wildflowers and other plants to flourish, thus creating a thriving woodland ecosystem.

	• There is a considerable amount of carbon dioxide intake and storage within trees and shrubs, and the ground below. This is also known as 'carbon sequestration' or a 'carbon sink' and helps to lower Stroud's carbon footprint. • Flash-flooding is likely to become more frequent in the future. The foliage of trees and shrubs slows down the rate of travel, particularly in the summer, thereby reducing the severity of individual events. • Root systems also help hold the soil structure together, protecting land from collapsing.
MAINTENANCE	Manage each copse on a rotational basis - by cutting say one-quarter of the area each year, or every two years, you will end up with a quarter of the area freshly cut, and the other quarters at varying levels of growth up to around 4 or 5 metres tall. Local conditions and growth will determine how many sub-compartments you divide the copse into and how often cutting occurs. It is unlikely that any cutting would be needed in the initial 5 years after planting. After that, coppicing is likely to be carried out on a 5-10-year frequency, depending on species and growth.