

# **Tree Fund Policy**

## **And How to Apply**



The tree coverage in Bridgwater is around 7%. This is way below the national average of 13% (which is way below the European average of 35%). Evidence states that trees are essential for creating a healthier atmosphere and environment by removing the harmful emissions from the air.

As part of its Climate Emergency Strategy, Bridgwater Town Council is committed to improving the environment and has set up a Tree Fund to support tree planting on public open spaces.

There is no “one size fits all” approach and there will be different solutions for each situation.

We are therefore looking for groups of people who are interested in additional tree planting on public green spaces in their local area.

Groups must demonstrate a communal commitment for any planting within their street or locality along with an agreement to maintain any new planting for at least two years to ensure that the trees survive and thrive.

Each application will be considered by a Tree Panel set up by Bridgwater Town Council, which will include arboriculture expertise to ensure that appropriate trees are planted for the particular space.

Each application will be considered on its merits. The criteria will be:

- Suitability of proposed planting site (must be on public open space).
- Collective commitment to the planting and to maintain the trees for a 2-year period.
- Adoption by the relevant organisation after the 2-year period.