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**GREEN IXWORTH LAUNCH ‘PLANT BRITAIN’ CAMPAIGN**

**Green campaigners have embarked on the first stage of an ambitious plan to improve the environment in their West Suffolk village.**

**Members of the recently formed Green Ixworth group were out with their spades on Monday morning braving the cold temperatures to plant \*30 tree saplings and bushes alongside a stretch of a popular walking route.**

**The volunteers are committed to a set of projects which would ‘rewild’ spaces around the village, enable wildlife to flourish and provide a better experience for residents and walkers. They are also seeking to shield existing residential areas by reducing noise and pollutants from the nearby busy A143 and construction of potential housing schemes.**

**The planting of hundreds of native UK trees in Ixworth is the group’s first contribution to the ‘Plant Britain’ campaign which was launched earlier this year by BBC TV’s Countryfile programme with the aim of planting 750,000 trees nationally to represent every UK primary school starter in 2020.**

**One of the group’s founders Roger Spiller, has donated a 50 metres length of verge alongside his garden fence for the first stage of planting. He borders Crown Lane which forms part of the historic ‘Roman Trail’ – one the village’s busiest walkways. Green Ixworth are also seeking permission to plant trees on a bank the other side of Crown Lane in order to create an avenue effect, linking the village centre with the countryside.**

**Whilst backing the Climate Emergency declared by West Suffolk Council, the Green Ixworth actvists are contributing to the review of the West Suffolk Local Plan. They are hoping that councillors from Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk Council and Ixworth Parish can help their efforts by supporting applications for funding.**

**\*Wild Roses, Bird Cherry, Guelder Rose, Wild Service Tree, Sea Buckthorne, Common Hazel, Holly, Cherry Plum, Wild Plum, Wayfaring Tree, Butchers Broom. We are awaiting the arrival of hedge plants including 200 Hawthorne, Blackthorne and Spindle. All are beneficial to birds, insects and mammals.**

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**Photo: Steve Wilson**

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