

MILLENNIUM AVENUES

To mark the Millennium, the Parish Council decided to consult with local landowners to see whether some more oak trees could be grown in the hedgerows along roads leading to the village. Oak trees were chosen for their symbolism and because oak is an appropriate native tree for hedgerows in this area and is very beneficial for wildlife. I am very pleased to be able to report that this idea was strongly supported, and that twenty seven extra roadside trees are now in place. In addition, some landowners are promoting extra saplings in hedges in the countryside. On behalf of the Parish Council I should like to thank the landowners concerned for their support, cooperation and goodwill.

A survey of all roadside hedgerows was carried out last summer, and some self-set saplings were found already growing in the right places, though trimmed back within the hedge. These saplings have been marked with hazard tape so that they can be left to grow on when the hedges are trimmed. These trees will have grown from local seed and will have developed a good root system, so they will grow on quickly. This is much the best way of promoting hedgerow trees.

In other places - most notably along Barton Road - small saplings of the durmast oak (*Quercus petraea*) have been planted, and it will be a bit longer before these show up. It is difficult to get saplings to establish well in hedgerows, and they are less windfirm than self-set trees. Young oak trees have a long tap root, and do not like being transplanted, so small lulu1 whips have been chosen because they offer the best chance of success. The trees were grown from native seed collected from Dymock, Glos (Collection no. 94(44)06F/SOK4008). This native species has been selected because it grows taller and straighter than the English oak (*Q. robur*) and is less likely to hang too low over the road or get in the way of agricultural machinery. This project has been funded by the Parish Amenities Fund, at a total cost of £28.68 so far.