

CUCKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Queen's Hall, High Street, Cuckfield, RH17 5EL



Assets Community and Environment Committee Meeting 9 July 2020

ACE008.b - To consider screening the container at Horsefield Green

1. Background

Although the container placed at Horsfield Green has now been painted green to better blend into the surroundings it has been requested that we look into planting a hedge to screen it.

2. Findings

Mixed native hedging would make the ideal screen providing interest for both humans and wildlife. A good mixture for heavier clay-based ground would be 50% blackthorn, 10% Bird Cherry, 10% Field Maple, 10% Dog Rose, 10% hazel and 10% Hawthorne. These plants produce flowers, berries, different leaf colouring and shape, as well as food and shelter for wildlife. However, this is not **totally** evergreen.

Screening required is approximately 3m length x 3m height planted across the front of the container to provide adequate screening from the houses on Ardingly Road

5 to 7 bare rooted plants per metre in a staggered row will give a dense hedge quicker. 3 to 5 pot grown plants per metre will give you more instant impact and will grow faster initially than bare rooted plants, but are less cost effective

3. Costs

The following quotations have been received:

Details	Comments	Cost + VAT
Mixed Native Bare Rooted plants 40/60cm high	Discounted pack of 50 Pre-order Nov 20	£49.99 inc VAT
Pyracantha – red, orange &/or yellow berries	40/60cm 2L pot @ £7.99 x12 60/90cm 2L pot @ £8.99 x 12	£95.88 £107.88
Holly - Ilex aquifolium	20/40cm cell grown @ £3.69 x 6 40/60cm 2L pot @ £10.99 x 4	£66.42 £131.88
Postage – standard delivery	Free on orders over £100	£12.00

Note: Contractor/supplier names have been deleted to prevent bias.

3. Remarks

Hedges that consist of a single native (deciduous) species are generally more valuable to birds, insects and small mammals than hedges consisting of a single evergreen species are. Even better results can be achieved by mixing several native and deciduous species, which will create a longer and more diverse

season of interest for [wildlife](#) and humans alike, with flowering in the spring and summer and berries in the winter.

Pyracantha or Firethorn - As the fruits of firethorn species appear during the winter months, they also provide a source of nutrition for birds in the cold months, during which food is relatively scarce. In addition, the berries are very decorative and a beautiful sight in an otherwise rather barren winter garden. These fruits are even edible for humans and can be cooked to make jams, jellies and sauces. Cooking them is essential, as the berries are rather bitter and astringent when raw. Before the red, yellow or orange berries appear in the autumn and winter, a firethorn hedge grows attractive, fragrant flowers that come out during the spring or early summer. These white flowers are an important source of nectar for bees, especially during the month of June. While the combination of its dense, elegant foliage and its white flowers or colourful berries makes a firethorn hedge a beautiful sight, its strength should not be underestimated. It is often planted in public parks due to the simple fact that it is beautiful, but the fact that firethorn species are resistant to all diseases except for scab and fire blight confirms their reputation as tough, excellent hedging plants.

Holly - Holly is an ideal hedging plant for many reasons. It is slow growing, so needs little maintenance. Its berries on pollinated plants provide food for native birds throughout the winter hedge and is also pollution resistant. Being evergreen, Holly keeps its fantastic foliage year-round providing year-round interest and winter cover.

Holly is also a very popular choice to include in a native mixed hedge (it is one of the few native evergreens) to provide some winter colour and protection for wildlife.

4. **Recommendations**

Consider adding a number of our native plants to a mixed feature as this will create a hedge full of diverse colours, shapes and textures.

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