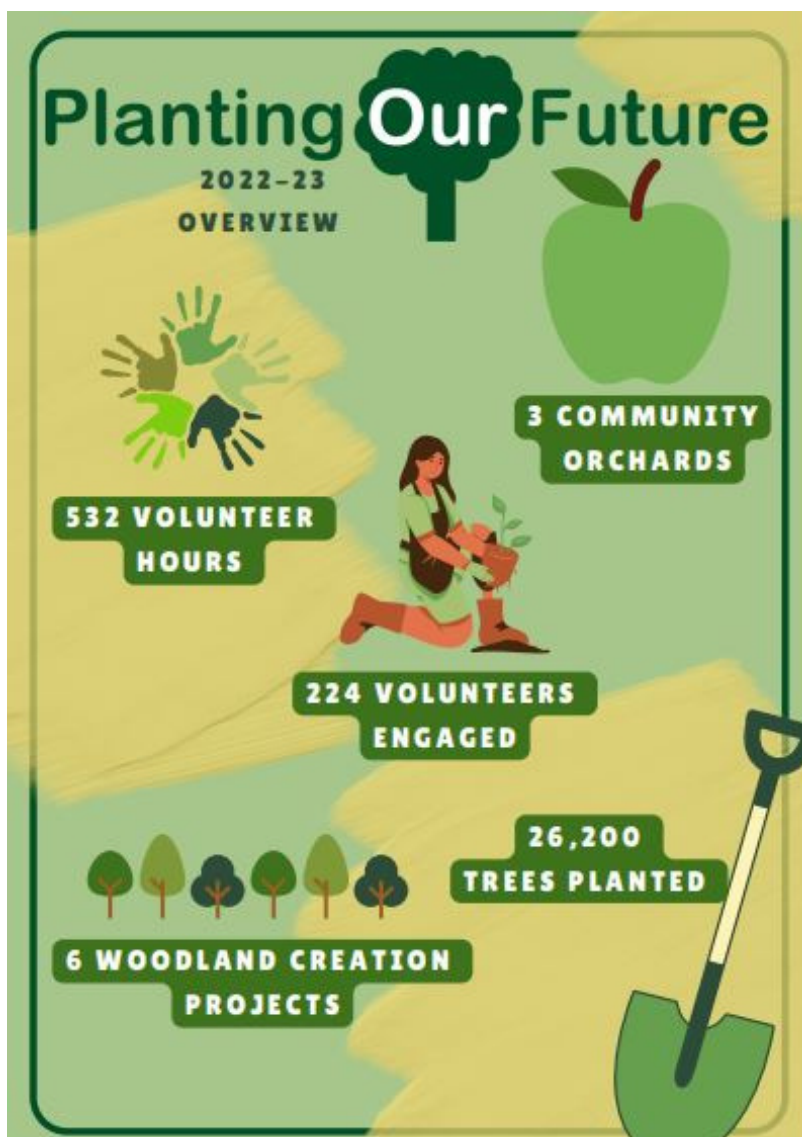


Planting Our Future

'Re-wilding, re-connecting and re-imagining planting across the borough with community engagement, education and raising environmental awareness at its heart'

Solihull Council have pledged to plant 250,000 trees over the next ten years as part of its commitment to tackle climate change via its 'Planting Our Future' campaign. In the last year, we have worked with numerous partners including schools, community businesses and landowners to find homes for some of the 25,000 trees planted in the borough.

This planting season has ended on plenty of highs!



As the planting season comes to an end, we wanted to share with you some of the highlights from 2023.

The Planting our Future campaign has continued to cover the borough in trees, hedgerows and orchards, in doing so we have successfully surpassed our 25,000 target for 2022/23.

We are delighted to have worked with so many enthusiastic people this season from all members of the Solihull community, from businesses sponsoring trees to school children and scouts helping to plant fruit trees and new woodlands.

Everyone involved did a super job that will have a real impact on the borough.

Barking up the right tree

Local company Watertight and Birmingham Dogs Home joined forces with the Planting Our Future campaign to plant 372 trees. They decided to work together to celebrate The Queen's Green Canopy and support the Council's plans to plant 250,000 trees in ten years. The trees were provided by the Planting Our Future Team with sponsorship from Watertight and planted on land at Birmingham Dogs Home's Solihull centre.



Cllr Ian Courts, Leader of Solihull Council, said: “Thanks to the support of companies and organisations like Watertight and Birmingham Dogs Home, our award-winning Planting Our Future team is on target to plant 250,000 trees in the borough in ten years. Planting trees on this scale helps us to meet our carbon net zero target and combat climate change - capturing carbon and helping to prevent flooding. It also provides new homes for wildlife.

Birmingham Dogs Home's Head of Fundraising, Fi Harrison said: “This is a fantastic project for our charity. We are lucky to have lots of open space for our dogs to exercise and these donated trees will create much needed shade in the summer and lots of interesting places to explore and sniff which is great enrichment for them. The trees will also help to stop some of the flooding issues we have had, so our exercise field will be less boggy in the winter months and we will have fewer muddy paws to clean! We are very grateful to everyone involved for their support which will benefit our four-legged residents for many years to come.”

David Christie, Project and Technical Manager for Watertight added: “Our company provides innovative flood resilience solutions and we understand the important role that trees play in preventing flooding. We are already committed to planting trees so supporting the Planting Our Future campaign made perfect sense. We planted 372 trees at Birmingham Dogs Home to celebrate the number of properties that we have helped with flood protection.”

Say it with TREES!



Local residents Ann and Malcolm Turner have celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary by planting a cherry tree on a village green in Shirley. They decided to support the Council's plans to plant 250,000 trees in ten years by buying a Celebration Tree from the Planting Our Future team and creating a lasting focal point in their area. The couple's family moved from Birmingham to Shirley 100 years ago – making it a double celebration – and they are well known in the area for their work on Shirley's history.



To find out how you can sponsor a Celebration Tree to mark a special occasion, remember a loved one or support your local environment, email plantingourfuture@solihull.gov.uk

Hitting the target at WM Police Dogs Training Centre

One of our biggest supporters this planting season has been our four-legged friends. Not only did we plant within Birmingham Dogs home, but we finished off the season planting just over 3,000 trees within WM Police Dog Training Centre in Balsall Common.

Both sites were not only keen for their fields to be less boggy, meaning less muddy paws to clean, but also shade for their dogs in the summer months; and trees were the perfect solution!

The final push came just before the snow was due to hit, so several teams from Environmental Services put on their wellies and together, in just under 3 days, managed to plant approximately 3,000 trees and a boundary hedgerow.

These hedgerows and trees will improve habitat connectivity, they will also 'lock up' carbon and provide other environmental benefits as they grow and mature, contributing in their own way towards our ambition of making Solihull net zero carbon by 2041.



To find out how you can be involved or to keep up to date with our planting activities
Follow us and our journey via our social media platforms to watch our plans unfold
@LoveSolihull / @PlantingOurFutureSol

