

Community Orchard



Transition Lostwithiel held an event called Nuts About Fruit in January which sparked considerable interest in a Community Orchard. An area in The Brambles has been identified as a possible site. This leaflet explains what would be involved and invites residents to let us know their opinions.

What is a Community Orchard?

It's a collection of fruit trees in a public space for the benefit of all in the community. It's great for wildlife and can be enjoyed throughout the seasons, particularly at blossom and harvest time. It helps reconnect people with local and seasonal food production, as well as with part of Cornwall's heritage. In the past there were orchards all over Lostwithiel, including Bodmin Hill, of which only a few ancient trees now remain.

Where will the orchard be?

When The Brambles was developed, the grassed area adjacent to No.5 was required to be left empty as a community space. This has been maintained voluntarily by a number of residents of The Brambles. Gilda Davies at No.5 is willing to co-ordinate a community orchard project on the site.

Who owns the land?

The developers, Eden Homes (SW) Limited, own the site and will be approached about the idea if it is supported. The Brambles is a fully developed site and the empty plot must remain undeveloped.

How many trees and what type?

The initial proposal is for 4 trees as marked on the map. The varieties can be decided by residents, depending on what is suitable for the site. Andrew Ormerod, an orchard expert at Eden, will advise and help residents to choose.

Who will pay?

Varieties which can be grown as pitchers or grafted will cost very little, and will be paid for by Transition Lostwithiel. If other varieties are preferred we may approach local nurseries for donations. Ongoing costs will be met by Transition Lostwithiel.

What size will they be when full grown?

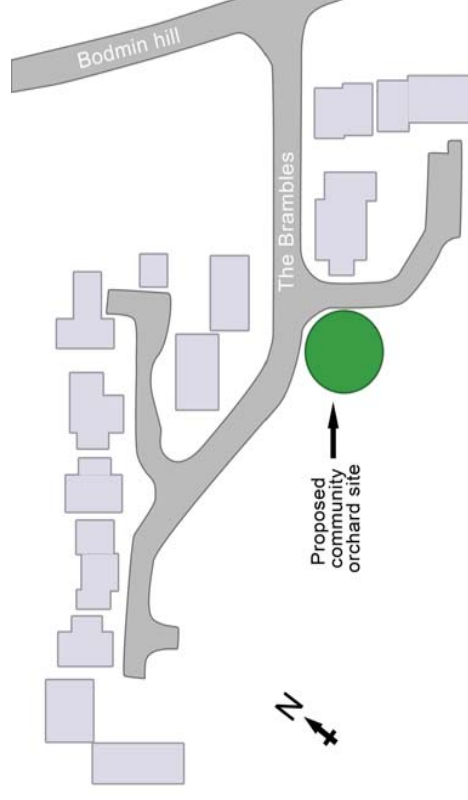
That depends on the varieties chosen. Maximum height for the tallest variety would be two thirds of a lamppost. The trees will be planted 8m apart for optimum growth.

Who will look after them?

A number of people at Nuts About Fruit expressed interest in a community orchard. Volunteers will be co-ordinated by Gilda at No.5. After the initial planting, the ongoing task will be to mulch around the trees every 1-2 years.

Who can pick the fruit?

Anyone – although trees should be allowed to develop properly before fruit is picked, then there will be plenty for everyone.



How do I get in contact?

You can speak to Gilda at No.5, email info@transitionlostwithiel.org or ring Kat on 873242 – please let us know what you think or get in touch if you have any questions.

What happens next?

Once we have received feedback about the idea, a trip to Eden Orchard will be organised for those interested to see different varieties and decide which they want in the community orchard. Transition Lostwithiel will promote the project and, all being well, planting would begin in January 2010.