

Proposal for a Community Orchard

1. Background and Opportunity

Broadstone has an opportunity to establish a community orchard on one or more of the town's green spaces. Pocket Park, Springdale Park and the Recreation Ground playground area have been suggested as possible locations, although other suitable sites may also be available.

BCP Council owns the town's common land and green spaces. Its permission would therefore be required before any site could be used for a community orchard. BCP Council may be open to Broadstone Town Council (BTC) helping to establish and maintain the orchard, but the proposed arrangement and each council's responsibilities would need to be agreed.

A full asset transfer is unlikely to be practical or affordable. Alternative arrangements, such as a lease or licence, should therefore be explored.

2. Funding and Support

Several organisations support community tree-planting projects. Assistance may include:

- free or subsidised trees and hedging;
- grants towards planting costs; and
- funding for one or two years of aftercare and maintenance.

Although many free-tree schemes focus on woodland rather than fruit trees or orchards, discounted supply and grant funding may still keep the cost to BTC relatively low. Eligibility, availability and total project costs should be confirmed before any commitment is made.

3. Assumption

The proposal assumes that the Broadstone residents' survey indicates support for this type of community project. Protection and enhancement of Broadstone's green spaces ranked highly in the survey, suggesting that a community orchard is likely to receive residents' support. The relevant findings should nevertheless be confirmed and recorded in the project case.

4. Key Considerations

Land ownership and use

- Identify and assess potential sites.
- Agree an acceptable land-use arrangement with BCP Council.
- Clarify the responsibilities of BCP Council and BTC.

Trees, hedging and funding

- Confirm whether BTC is eligible for relevant schemes.
- Compare free provision, grant funding and direct BTC funding.
- Check application deadlines and planting-season requirements.

Community involvement

- Decide how residents and community groups will be consulted and involved.
- Determine whether planting will be undertaken by volunteers, a paid contractor or a combination of both.

Aftercare and maintenance

- Define watering, pruning, replacement and general maintenance requirements.
- Establish whether aftercare can be grant-funded or included within the grounds maintenance contract.

5. Proposed Next Steps

Action	Owner	Target date
Follow up with BCP Council	MB / AM	31 August 2026
Investigate tree-provision options, eligibility and deadlines	AM	30 November 2026
Confirm the preferred land-use approach with BTC	MB / AM	30 November 2026
Agree the community-engagement approach	BTC	30 November 2026
Schedule planting	To be confirmed	Q1/Q2 2027

6. Progress Update

- Land-leasing and ownership options are being explored with BCP Council.
- Pocket Park is the preferred site for an orchard of fewer than 20 fruit trees.

- Springdale Park is the secondary option, although its capacity would be more limited because of drainage constraints.
- Where possible, routine maintenance and tree care would be incorporated into the existing grounds maintenance service and delivered within contracted hours.
- Community agreement is required on harvesting arrangements and the use or distribution of produce.

7. Indicative Budget

Initial research indicates that many free-tree schemes are intended for woodland planting rather than fruit trees or community orchards.

Fruit-tree suppliers may offer community-project discounts. One identified example prices a half-standard fruit tree at £18.50, with no VAT charged; delivery for 20 trees is quoted at £54.

Tree protection and ongoing maintenance could add approximately £10 per tree.

On this basis, an orchard of fewer than 20 trees should allow for an indicative purchase and establishment budget of approximately £600, plus delivery.

Competitive quotations and a complete cost breakdown should be obtained before the budget is finalised.

8. Further Information

- [Woodland Trust — free trees for schools and communities](#)
- [International Tree Foundation — UK grants](#)
- [The Orchard Project](#)