

# CONSULTATION

## APPLE TREES ON THE GREEN, MARLBOROUGH

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

JUNE 2013

### Council Survey

#### Apple Trees at The Green, Marlborough

Marlborough Community Orchard volunteers have planted more than 200 apple trees at various sites to create a town in an orchard.

One of these sites, The Green, is common land maintained by the Town Council. While permission was granted in 2012 for three apple trees to be planted there, local people have asked that this is re-visited. So, the trees have been removed while we find out from as many Marlborough residents as possible if they feel whether The Green is the right place for them to be planted. Residents may like to know that, if the trees are returned, they would be planted in an area where the soil is most suitable and that they are likely to grow up to about 18 feet/5.5metres high.



#### Apple Trees at The Green, Marlborough

##### The Survey

Please let us know what you think about planting apple trees on the west side of The Green by ticking the relevant boxes:

I am in favour of planting apple trees at The Green.

If so, one apple tree   
or  
Up to three apple trees

I am against planting any apple trees at The Green

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments:

Please return your completed surveys to Marlborough Town Council, 5 High Street, Marlborough, Wilts, SN8 1AA or respond to our online survey at [www.marlbroughtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marlbroughtowncouncil.gov.uk) (from 1.5.13).

The consultation closes on Friday, 14th June 2013.

Thank you for taking part in this survey

# CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

## TREES ON THE GREEN

### 1. Summary

At the meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee (A&OS) meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> March, Members decided to undertake a consultation around the planting of trees on The Green, Marlborough. These had been planted as the result of a well supported initiative by Marlborough Community Orchard (MCO) to be a *town within an orchard*. MCO had consulted residents living on The Green. Of 23 residents, 22 were in favour of the project. Three trees were planted on The Green on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013. A small protest at the site was given some press coverage. At the A&OS meeting, it was decided that as The Green was an open space for all residents to enjoy then wider consultation was necessary and that, in the meantime, the trees should be taken and re-potted.

### 2. Methodolgy

At the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> April, wording to the consultation was amended and agreed and the survey was included in the May edition of *Marlborough - Town and Country*, surveys were also delivered to all properties close to The Green (including Herd Street, Silverless street, Barn Street, St Martins (including York Place), Oxford Street and The Green) and it was posted online on the Town Council's website at [www.marlboughtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.marlboughtowncouncil.gov.uk)

It has not been possible to ascertain exactly how many surveys were sent out as *Town and Country* is distributed to households throughout the Marlborough parish area, (Milldenhall, Axford, Aldbourne, Ogbournes, etc). No paper surveys showing postcodes outside of the Marlborough parish area were received.

This consultation's aim was to obtain feedback from local people.

The consultation also offered the opportunity to add comment. These are included in this report.

### 3. Consultation Feedback – The Stats

The consultation ran from 1<sup>st</sup> May – 14<sup>th</sup> June (6 weeks). A total of 181 feedback surveys were returned and information collated. The outcome is broken down as follows:

TOWN AND COUNTRY	
For	17
Against	31
Other	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>

SURVEYS LOCAL TO THE GREEN	
For	12
Against	32
Other	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>

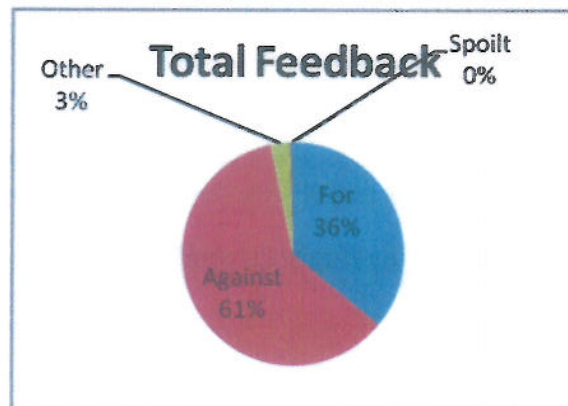
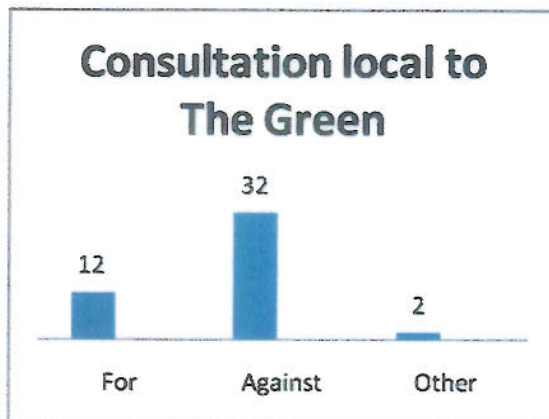
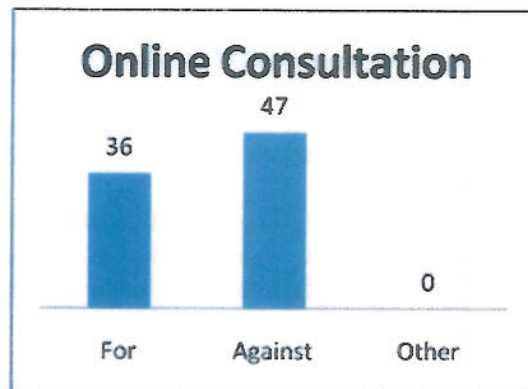
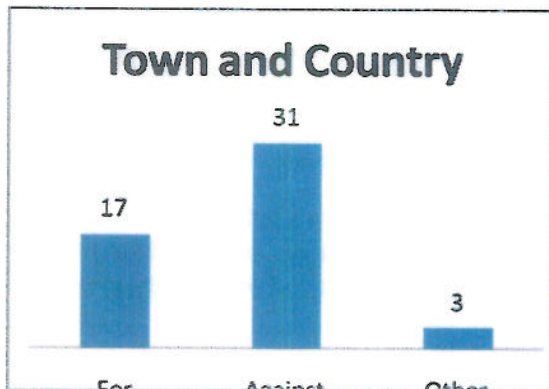
ONLINE SURVEY	
For	36
Against	47
Other	
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>

# CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

SPOILT	
Spoilt	1

TOTAL OVERALL RESULT	
For	65
Against	110
Other	5
Spoilt	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>

And in graph format

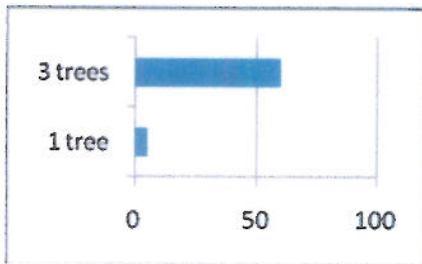


The returned feedback consultation shows that of the 181 completed surveys, 61% are against the planting of the trees on The Green and 36% support it. Also, 3% of surveys showed no response only comment. 1 survey was spoilt.

#### 4. How Many Trees?

The survey also asked that if in favour of trees being planted, how many it should be (1 or up to 3). Of the 65 in favour of trees being planted, 5 would like to see only 1 tree and the remaining 60, would be happy with up to 3 trees.

## CONSULTATION FEEDBACK



It was noted that 4 of the 5 respondents expressing a wish for only 1 tree, lived near to The Green.

### 5. Other Comments

The 5 surveys which show as 'other' on the statistical breakdown above submitted only comments. One involved possible archaeological damage to the site, 2 surveys stated a preference for planting on the opposite side of The Green and the other suggested an alternative site at Savernake Crescent.

### 6. Observations

When verifying the completed surveys it was noted that some of the surveys delivered to addresses local to The Green 8 were showing postcodes away from the immediate area but still within the Marlborough parish area.

### 7. Conclusions

The statistics show that most feedback is against trees being planted on The Green. However, it is clear from the comments submitted that the work of Marlborough Community Orchard is welcomed and applauded but that The Green is seen as an important part of the town's heritage and should be retained as it is.

## TREES ON THE GREEN

### COMMENTS TAKEN FROM THE CONSULTATION SURVEYS

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY COMMENTS

##### FOR

A great idea

Why not plant outside Eagle House

We were in favour when originally asked and are still in favour

The Green is a crucial location for a town in an orchard

A wonderful idea – I can't wait to see the blooms

All trees absorb CO2 and are good for our environment with added benefit of apples

Recent action an insult

##### AGAINST

I like the openness of The Green as it is

The Green is and has been a feature of our town for many years and its present design with the double row of lime trees is stunning. Please do not change it with additions.

I support the Community Orchard but feel The Green is not the right place

We live on The Green not the Orchard

I am greatly in favour of planting apple trees generally but this is not the appropriate place

It's quite a small open space. Not sure about the tree by the Common

Leave The Green alone. Why do you want to keep changing our heritage?

I support the Orchard volunteers but not for trees on The Green

We do not want fruit trees on every available open space

The Green is fabulous as it is. Large area between Barton Park and College Fields.

Why plant apple trees that grow to about 18 feet when you already pollard trees that are there

It is an iconic view which would be ruined by a)symmetry b) the mess caused by rotting apples

The Green is what it is. Not an orchard which it could become, Already sufficient sites

Its The Green not The Orchard

The Green is perfect as it is

Please keep it as it has always been. A nice open area

It loses its status as a Green

Please leave Te Green as a green

It should be left as it has always been, a pleasant open space

The Green looks lovely – don't change it

Very much in favour of fruit trees elsewhere

### **OTHER**

How will you weigh the views of respondents from Axford, Aldbourne, Ramsbury, Bedwyn, etc versus those who live on or by The Green

## **SURVEYS DELIVERED TO THOSE LIVING ON OR NEAR THE GREEN**

### **FOR**

Great idea

We were consulted

Great idea – lovely addition to The Green

Think apple trees would be lovely on The Green

A lovely idea

Only reservation is whether such trees might be vandalised for their fruit. Will these be eating apples?

We would love apple trees on The Green and were appalled by the protests

Immediately local residents voted 22 – 1 in favour. The A&OS Committee was n favour. The Orchard have and will go on planting apple and other fruit trees. The trees would grow 10-12 feet max. Of course, our town is an orchard must have at least one apple tree growing on The Green. It would be inappropriate not to plant in the focal centre.

### **AGAINST**

The Green should remain unchanged

The Green is ideal as it is – a lovely open space

The Green should be left as it has always been, its not an orchard. Yes put some on the Common at the top of Kingsbury Street but no to The Green

This silly idea shows experience lacking of elementary horticulture

We live on The Green not The Orchard. So may other locations to plant fruit trees. Thank you for asking us this time. The first we knew of it was when the trees were planted

Put them somewhere that needs some decoration

If the residents are willing please plant cherry trees on the banks at Chery Orchard

The Green is an iconic part of Marlborough and should remain untouched

The Green is not a suitable place to plant trees

The Green – a space not an orchard

Keep green for all activites including ball games. Trees – stop this.

We are not strongly against the trees but don't really see a need for them. The Green is nice as it is.

Not a suitable site

Leave the Green alone

The Green is a Green not an orchard

The Green is an open area for all of us to enjoy

The avenue provides the classic height line on The Green and should not be compromised

The Green should remain a green. Plant them in the orchard on The Common

It is The Green, not an Orchard

The Green is beautiful as a green open space – not to be cluttered. Apple Trees should be in orchards.

#### **OTHER**

What does re-visited mean?

#### **COMMENTS FROM ONLINE SURVEYS**

I've lived in Ogbourne 45 years, visit M'boro nearly daily. Love the Green's open space, don't want it cluttered with any trees esp those dropping fruit (wasps, rotting, etc, I've got several so I know!).Apple trees elsewhere such as the Common are very good

I do not agree with apple trees being planted on the Green anywhere.

I am strongly against the planting of trees on the Green and believe this would be to the

detriment of this historic area.

What will be done with all the fallers, probably left for children to throw around. People living on the green will be pestered by wasps.

As it says on your homepage, the Green has been unchanged for hundreds of years and I think it should stay this way.

Apple trees would be an inappropriate addition to this heritage site.

This classic view of Marlborough should not be cluttered up with anything. Small special interest groups should not be able to change a lovely landscape and the town council should not allow it because they like to feel they have done something.

I prefer The Green to be left as it is. I fully support the planting of the apple trees elsewhere in the town eg Priory Gardens or Wye House Garden

I assume the avenue of trees were added at some point, Things can be changed and be a positive thing.

The Green doesn't need any more trees planted on it. There are other places in Marlborough which don't have apple trees on them yet where they would be more suited and appreciated.

We need at least one - or sometimes two - apple or other orchard fruit trees in every street in town. The Green is such a key central area : it must have a tree. I would prefer more but suggest one only to offend no-one,

The Green belongs to all of Marlborough and as such the consultation should be widely and comprehensively conducted.

The Green is an historic site and of local archaeological importance. Planting of trees could cause damage to important evidence. The Green is aesthetically pleasing, as it is, with the sweeping green and lime tree edge walk. Please leave it alone.

It has always been an open space ,and should remain so.

The Green area is symmetrical in design. To plant some apple trees in a random fashion I think would spoil the look of the green. Better to grow a apple orchard on the common.

Much more open space.

Because the green is special as it is

As a resident I feel that the trees when grown would change the view and aspect to The Green. The land should remain as a Green and not become an orchard - whether it is one or three they will look out of place. Please keep it as it is.

I think apple trees on west side of green would spoil line of existing lime avenue. 3 apple trees on the EAST side of the green would, in my opinion, look good. Thank you.

I would also like to see some fruit trees planted in Orchard Road (where I live) - there is a new green in the mini-estate that could be used for this.

Apple trees would spoil the lovely open feel of the green and would be out of place in this setting.

Town in an Orchard is a wonderful idea and should be applauded. Too many trees are being cut down, so the fact that there's even a question about whether to plant them or not is astounding.

I think it is inappropriate to plant any more trees on The Green.

Could only add to what is already a delightful area

It is an open green space where people can sit in the summer and entirely the wrong place for apple trees.

The Green is a lovely open and tidy space as one passes through Marlborough - apple trees are not suitable for this area.

I welcome the proposals of apple trees on the green in marlborough. We frequently visit the green and it would be very nice to smell the apple blossom and have some shade at the proposed place. There are trees on the perimeter of the electrical sub statio

Can't wait for the first Marlborough Green apple pie, or the blossom in Spring.

I think, although a lovely idea, unless they are picked the apples will fall and encourage wasps. Other trees, such as ornamental cherry are more appropriate, in my opinion, if any.

I have no objection to the other sites where apple trees have been planted but feel that the historic significance of this site and the fact that the green in it's current form is part of Marlborough heritage must be reasons to conserve the current style.

Super idea - love the apple trees around the town. Thank you !

The Green is appreciated by all who walk through it. It is not solely for the adjoining houses. Trees bearing apple blossom can only enhance the area and the fruit can be enjoyed by someone. I would be happy to have a small tree in my back garden.

Even more public space should be sought so that more local apple varieties can be planted to further extend the 'Town in an Orchard' programme

Wrong ! The original three trees could not grow to 18ft !! two were on root stock that would not support growth beyond 8 to 10ft. The third, a Bramley being vigorous could exceed 10ft but would surely have been pruned to ensure its management.

I feel that addition trees here would change the overall appearance of the Green. It is such a beautiful place as it is.

The Green = open space for the town. The apple trees should be planted at another site.

The proposed site for the apple trees is not in keeping with the current planting, which in my opinion needs no further enhancement.

The Green is a Green, not an orchard

The Green should be left as the green.

I object to trees planted on the green, if you look all other trees are planted on the edges by the roads or paths. I would not object to apple trees planted in this way. Thank you for the opportunity to have my say.

People plant trees in all places but do NOT consider to maintain them therefore growing out of control, causing obstruction and causing damage it seems to be a case of not in my backyard so not my worry nearby residence Should be consulted and heard

There are enough planted elsewhere. So few people make use of the apples it just creates a mess and attracts wasps to a public place etc

It is misleading to allege that the trees will grow to 18 feet because the trees proposed to be planted are, I understand, grafted onto MM106 rootstock which will limit growth to no more than about 12 feet.

Marlborough is very fortunate to have such an admirable and inspirational initiative as MCO, which is a role model for what communities can achieve and it is a great pity that its success should be marred by mean thinking and self interest by a minorit

Suggest that the green on the east side has the access road widened and the green area reduced in order to facilitate better access for fire engines and improved residents parking (charge them for it). It needs to be at least twice as wide as it is.

The green is beautiful and does not need any enhancement. It belongs to the whole of Marlborough, decisions are not to be taken by a few!

I feel it would adversely affect the view of the Green but would like to suggest planting them in the gardens of the retirement housing behind 10 The Green. Perhaps Marlborough HA or the residents could be approached on this? Marie Warren (Ms)

My reasoning is first, that apple trees in that spot will detract from the lime trees alongside the footpath and second, that having the trees there redefines the sense of being a 'green.'  
AB

Planting trees & saving apple varieties - good; orchard idea reasonable if tenuous in a locale where it's not a typical landscape feature; unilateral planting of trees on a Green in the name of a "community orchard" - very bad. A Green is not an orchard.

The Northwest area of The Green, where the apple trees were originally planted, already has twenty five trees, five benches, and three litter bins. It doesn't need the further loss of 'open space' which would occur if apple trees were planted there.

There was no consultation before these trees were planted. Trees are great, but context is all. The Green is a site of great importance. No group has the right to unilaterally plant trees, place street furniture or otherwise "improve" it.

The Green is an open space and always has been as long as I can remember. It offers a particularly attractive vista as you pass through the town and populating it with Apple trees would change its character and is inappropriate