**Westbury-sub-Mendip Community Tree Group**

**Response to Outline Planning Application for development of land south of Roughmoor Lane**

The plan as it stands looks as though it is allowing for the planting of a good number of trees. As a Community Tree Group, set up by the Parish Council in summer 2020, we have a special interest in making sure that all tree plantings both now and in the future are both suitable and sustainable, and in keeping with the local area. Attention must be given to putting the right tree in the right place, and all plantings given the highest possibility of growing successfully. To this end it is essential that appropriate native species be chosen, that stock should be locally sourced, and that a plan be made for long-term management and maintenance. Furthermore, there should be no removal of existing hedges. The Group has established a tree nursery and has already been supplying stock within the village. It is available to give advice on species selection and would ask to be consulted on this matter at the appropriate time.

It should also be noted that, on the water flow pathways map produced by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), there are three water pathways flowing across the site. There is a considerable need in Westbury-sub-Mendip to reduce the effects of water run-off generally. The Community Tree Group has been working in association with Somerset County Council’s “Re-imagining the Levels” group to identify areas that could benefit from tree planting as a means of mitigating this run-off, and to encourage landowners to plant trees accordingly. An area to the south of the proposed development could be designated for such a planting. It would both enhance the landscape and serve a useful purpose.