**How was the Sycamore Gap tree important to your community group?**

The loss of the Sycamore Gap tree resonates deeply with our community, as trees are woven into the history and landscape of Tettenhall. About 20 years ago, we faced the devastation of losing a 300-year-old lime tree to a storm. This wasn't just any tree; it sheltered wildlife, including protected bats, making its loss all the more poignant. It served as a reminder of how irreplaceable our natural heritage is.

Similarly, the Sycamore Gap tree, standing for nearly 300 years, symbolised resilience and strength for its community. This connection between the two trees highlights their broader roles in anchoring both our past and environment.

Remarkably, our lime tree has shown signs of regrowth, offering a message of hope and renewal. In Tettenhall, we take pride in our conservation area, where our historic lime trees line the streets, embodying continuity and endurance. The Sycamore Gap tree, much like our own, was a powerful symbol of nature's resilience.

Our village has deep ties to its heritage, reflected in its history and royal connections, such as the planting of Coronation saplings and the renovation of the village path for the celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee. Trees are more than just elements of the landscape—they are integral to our identity, linking us to the past while shaping our future.

**Why would you like to win a sapling?**

Winning a sapling would be a wonderful way to honour Tettenhall’s rich heritage and renew our natural landscape. Our village boasts a strong historical legacy, from Thomas Telford’s 1820s roadway and escarpment connecting us to Wolverhampton to nearby landmarks like Wightwick Manor and the Smestow Valley Nature Reserve.

The area’s canal walks, engineered by James Brindley, also form a crucial part of our transport heritage, and will also raise awareness of the work at the Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre. Additionally, the canal walks lead to another point of interest—a battlefield where, in 910, the Danes fought the English at Tettenhall, resulting in an English victory.

A sapling would symbolise new growth, linking our historic landmarks to the thriving community we have today. It would stand as a reminder of resilience and renewal, reflecting our commitment to restoring green spaces and protecting the planet for future generations.

By developing a walking trail that connects our historical and natural sites, we would bring attention to the importance of conservation in preserving our shared heritage. This project would not only instil pride in Tettenhall but also serve as a reminder of the global importance of safeguarding green spaces for future generations.

**How does your entry reflect the themes of hope, community, culture, heritage, nature, wellbeing, and celebration?**

These themes are reflected through our connection to heritage and the natural world, in part, symbolised by Tettenhall’s 1912 coronation memorial clock. Built in Baroque style to commemorate King George V, the clock was a gift from the Swindley family, known for their generosity. Its four-sided inscriptions read:

* "I labour here with all my might to tell the hours by day and night."
* "For every hour that strikes there is a joy."
* "For every hour that comes there is a hope."
* "For every hour that passes there is a record."

These words encapsulate Tettenhall’s enduring spirit of hope, community, and unity. Like the clock, the sapling would symbolise new life emerging from loss, offering a message of renewal.

Our ancient community pool, a cherished gathering place for families, highlights our commitment to wellbeing and connection. By involving local schools, charities and community groups, we aim to inspire future generations to value conservation, nature, and heritage.

Engaging local and national media will amplify this story, raising awareness about the importance of protecting green spaces and ensuring a sustainable future. This initiative not only represents growth and continuity but also celebrates the resilience of our community, our connection to nature, and our responsibility to future generations.

**What would a sapling mean to your community?**

A sapling would embody hope and renewal for Tettenhall, breathing new life into our landscape and restoring the natural beauty we lost with the lime tree's two decades ago. It would serve as a vibrant symbol of resilience, celebrating the strength and endurance that trees offer to our environment and our community.

This sapling would unite the village, serving as a focal point for educational and conservation efforts. It would connect our community's historic roots to the present, instilling a sense of local responsibility and pride in future generations to care for our environment.

We propose planting the sapling near our community pool, a popular gathering spot for local families. The tree would serve as a visible symbol of continuity, allowing residents to watch it grow and become part of the village’s heart. To protect the sapling, we would install fencing and create informational displays to educate visitors about its significance. Wayfinding signs would guide people to the tree, connecting it to other historical points of interest in Tettenhall.

Wayfinding signs would link the sapling to other key points of interest, such as the Smestow Valley Nature Reserve, the historic canal paths, and the battlefield site, enriching the story of Tettenhall’s heritage.

In this way, the sapling would become a living landmark within Tettenhall, connecting our natural environment, wildlife, and history with the message of renewal—just as our 300-year-old lime tree, has started to grow once more.