

Hambleton District Council

Report To: Cabinet

Date: 2 November 2021

Subject: **Queen's Green Canopy – Tree Planting Initiative**

Portfolio Holder: Environmental Health, Waste and Recycling
Councillor S Watson

Wards Affected: All Wards

1.0 Purpose and Background

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the planting of trees in each Ward as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.
- 1.2 The Queen's Green Canopy is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a tree for the Jubilee". It is intended that the Queen's Green Canopy will create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership which will benefit future generations.
- 1.3 It is proposed that all ward members have the opportunity to identify an area of land suitable for planting a tree in their ward. Members are being asked to take a lead on this with their community and they may wish to link to any existing schemes taking place within their wards.
- 1.4 Ideally the land will be owned by HDC or leased to the Parish Council from HDC although any suitable land could be considered. Once members have identified a suitable area for tree planting, a contractor working on behalf of the council will be contacted. This contractor would then advise on the type and size of tree that is suitable. The work will need to be completed during the planting season which runs roughly between November and March. It is anticipated that the trees could range in size up to about 4 metres tall, but this would depend on the sites chosen. A guide is shown below for members on approximate tree sizes that could be considered.

Table 1: Tree sizing guide

Tree Size	Girth 1 metre above the ground	Approx. Height	Clear Trunk
Feathered Tree	less than 6cm	1.75-2.50m	
Light Standard	6-8cm	2.50-3.00m	1.50-1.75m
Regular Standard	8-10cm	2.50-3.00m	1.75-2.00m
Selected Standard	10-12cm	3.00-3.50m	2.00m
Heavy Standard	12-14cm	3.00-3.50m	2.00m
Extra Heavy Standard	14-16cm	4.25-4.50m	2.00m

- 1.5 The Queen's Green Canopy is offering a physical, as well as a virtual commemorative plaque option, in keeping with an environmental initiative. The details of all Jubilee trees planted will be uploaded to Queen's Green Canopy Map and become part of the digital legacy of green canopy projects.
- 1.6 As part of the landscaping scheme at Maple Park, which will accommodate the new Hambleton Crematorium, a location for an oak tree has already been identified. The opening of Maple Park will also include the unveiling of a plaque for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- 1.7 Planting, outside of the Maple Park development, will be carried out by a contractor appointed on behalf of the Council. This would need to take account of available dates and weather conditions.

2.0 Link to Council Priorities

- 2.1 The proposal relates to the priority on 'Caring for the Environment' because tree planting helps to offset our CO² emissions, thereby supporting our Climate Change Strategy and helping to evidence our commitment to environmental change.
- 2.2 The proposal also links to the priority on 'Enhancing Health and Wellbeing' because trees contribute to our feeling of wellbeing, enhancing our natural environment and providing recreational space.

3.0 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 There are no significant risks in approving the recommendation.
- 3.2 The key risk in not approving the recommendation is as shown below:

Risk	Implication	Gross Prob	Gross Imp	Gross Total		Net Prob	Net Imp	Net Total
Negative public image of the Council not being involved in a national initiative to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee.	Damage to the reputation of the Council caused by failing to be seen to be acting on our Climate Change Strategy	4	3	12	Approve the Strategy and Policy	2	2	4

Prob = Probability, Imp = Impact, Score range is Low = 1, High = 5

- 3.3 The overall risk of supporting the Queen's Green Canopy – tree planting initiative outweighs the risk of not supporting it.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Final costs will depend on the take up of the scheme and exact prices will vary according to availability, tree size and variety chosen and other considerations such as access. A proposed budget figure is set out below and it is proposed this is taken from the One-Off Fund.

Purchase of trees up to 4 metres tall	£30,000
Delivery and Planting and plaques	£20,000
Total estimated cost.	£50,000

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Ideally trees will be planted on HDC land, but if that is not the case then permission will need to be sought from landowners. Public liability issues will need to be addressed through agreements with the landowners.

6.0 Equality/Diversity Issues

- 6.1 Equality and Diversity Issues have been considered, however there are no issues associated with this report.

7.0 Recommendation

- 7.1 That Cabinet approves the participation in the Queen's Green Canopy initiative in Hambleton and financial provision is made as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

Paul Staines
Director of Environment

Background papers: None

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