

## Queen's Green Canopy

The Queen's Green Canopy is creating a living legacy with over a million trees planted in Her Majesty's name across the nation during the first planting season, October 2021 to March 2022. The extension of the QGC initiative will build on this legacy and serve as a lasting tribute to Her Majesty's extraordinary service to her country and her people.

Following the wishes of its Patron, His Majesty The King, The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative will be extended to the end of March 2023 to give people the opportunity to plant trees in memoriam to honour Her Majesty.

As a nationwide initiative created to mark the Platinum Jubilee, the QGC was due to conclude in December – the end of the Jubilee year. However, as the official tree planting season in the United Kingdom is from October to March, the initiative will now be extended to include the full tree planting season, beginning in October 2022 and concluding in March 2023.

The Estates Committee has been looking into options for the parish council to plant under the Queens Green Canopy initiative and at its July meeting (Min **EC.22.07.08.4** refers) agreed to investigate options to plant 70 trees on the outer banks to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee.

The Tree Warden, Roger Medley, arranged and met with the Chairperson of the Suffolk Tree Warden Network and the Clerk on 29<sup>th</sup> July to consider the suggested planting areas.

**70 trees on the banks of the playing fields.** Recommendations were as follows

- i. Saplings cannot just be planted. To guarantee success a one metre square step needs to be cut midway down the bank and the soil that is removed should be heaped at lower edge to stop water run-off.
- ii. Once the saplings have been planted, and well-watered, the one metre square should be mulched with several inches of wood chips (or similar)
- iii. For the first two, maybe three summer seasons, there would be a need for regular watering, at least weekly.
- iv. There is sufficient space on the two banks (approximately 250 metres in length) for 70, or less, trees

If the parish council is not too fussy about tree species the saplings, guards and stakes can be provided free.

Resources required to support the project and ensure success would therefore be:

- 1) Contractor and plant to cut steps in the outer banks
- 2) Sourcing of mulch for planted saplings
- 3) Accessible supply of water throughout first three years
- 4) Team of dedicated parish volunteers to ensure at least weekly watering over first three years.

The costs at commercial rates are likely to be substantial, but the greater issue is the need to recruit, support and maintain a long term team of volunteers to ensure that any sapplings planted survive the first three years.

**Alternative possible sites**

**The cemetery.** An easier option is the planting of a group of 7 blossom trees (e.g. flowering cherry) throughout the Cemetery. There would be no need for use of digger and a supply of water is nearby.

**In fill of gaps in the tree lines on the edges of playing fields** There is sufficient space for 7 trees. No digger work would be required but the trees would not be so obvious as commemorative plantings and would soon be lost.

**A spread of 7 trees across Attleton, Genesis and Coltsfoot Greens.** As above, the trees would soon be lost.

There may be other options but these are the favoured suggestions.

**Powers:**

- Power to provide and maintain open space or burial ground in or outside the council's area – Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10
- Power to provide and maintain cemeteries in or outside the council's area – Local Government Act 1972, s214(2)
- Power to provide and maintain land for public recreation – Public Health Act 1875, s.164
- Power to provide and manage recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces - Public Health Act 1875, s.164

**Funding:**

	<b>Revenue (unspent)</b>	<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>
Six Acres Development	£750.00	£2,500.00
Cemetery and Churchyard	£93.18	-
Greens	£750.00	-

**Action:**

**Councillors to decide on a scale for the project for Wickhambrook to take part in the Queens Green Canopy. The clerk may then scope the project and report back to the November Estates Committee with any costs for authorisation (or Parish Council in November if costs exceed £5,000).**