

Committee(s) Epping Forest and Commons	Dated 17/01/2022
Subject: Sir Roger Gifford Memorial Project, Epping Forest (SEF 05/22)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2/3/4/11/12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	y
If so, how much?	£7,500
What is the source of Funding?	100% Grant aid
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	no
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director Environment,	For Decision
Report author: Geoff Sinclair, Head of Operations	

Summary

This report is necessary to seek your Committee's approval for a celebratory memorial to the life and work of Sir Roger Gifford, 685th Lord Mayor of London, which has been developed in association with Lady Clare Gifford and planned for spring 2022. Site improvements to Gifford Wood are proposed along with a celebratory tree planting and tea to which the Lord Mayor's full party, with consorts, would be invited. A schools environmental education day is planned for the City of London Primary Schools in 2022 as part of the celebration proposals by the City of London's Education Unit and the Open Spaces Learning Team.

In line with Sir Roger's wishes, expressed during visits to Gifford Wood, it is proposed that the lower meadow on Horseshoe Hill is named Lord Mayor's Bottom.

Recommendation(s)

Epping Forest and Commons Committee Members are asked to:

- To support the hosting of the celebratory memorial event in honour of Sir Roger Gifford along with the naming of the lower meadow as Lord Mayor's Bottom.

Main Report

Background

1. The late Sir Roger Gifford was the 685th Lord Mayor of London from 2012 to 2013. As one of his chosen charities for the Lord Mayor's Appeal during his time of office Epping Forest was given the funds for the establishment of a new 2.063 hectares (5.1 acres) woodland on newly acquired Forest land at Horseshoe Hill, Upshire.
2. With significant support from the Friends of Epping Forest (now the Epping Forest Heritage Trust) and many local volunteers and school children the new woodland, Gifford Wood, was planted over the winter of the 2013/14. The woodland has thrived and is growing vigorously.
3. A 1.2 mile (2 kilometre) waymarked trail, The Gifford Wood Trail, was installed at this time. The trail took walkers through Gifford Wood and the Buffer lands of Oxleys and Potkilm woods. New bridges and entrances along the trail were installed by volunteers from visiting Scout troops.
4. To recognise the life and work of Sir Roger Gifford, who died on the 25 May 2021, Epping Forest will be hosting a celebratory memorial to Sir Roger. Working with Lady Clare Gifford a celebration proposal for 2022 (Appendix One) has been developed and comprises:
 - a. *Site improvements to Gifford Wood.* These would be focussed on informing visitors about Epping Forest and the wildlife to be found and encouraging people to explore Gifford Wood and the wider Epping Forest.
 - b. *Celebration event.* A ceremonial tree planting undertaken with invited guests, including a short walk around Gifford Wood followed by tea in the local pub or village hall. We will have some long horn cattle on site as an added attraction.
 - c. *Schools' environmental education day.* The aim will be to bring as many children as possible from the City of London Primary Schools (there are seven of these, if we also include the preparatory sections in our independent schools) for an environmental day to Epping Forest in the summer term. We would have cattle on site for this event.
5. The school's environment day would be coordinated through a partnership of the City of London's Education Unit and the Open Spaces Learning Team. Site improvements and celebration event would be led by the Epping Forest team.
6. In addition to friends and family of Lady Clare it is proposed that the full Lord Mayor's party plus consorts, Open Spaces and Epping Forest Committees and Alderman that knew Roger are invited to the celebratory event
7. This report updates your committee on the progress of this work and makes a request to name a meadow in Gifford Wood as Lord Mayor's Bottom, which was the name Sir Roger used when referring to it and was a request to Epping Forest staff from him when he was alive to see it changed to this.

Proposals

8. Option One: To support the hosting of the celebratory memorial event to Sir Roger Gifford along with the naming of the lower meadow as Lord Mayor's Bottom. **Recommended**
9. Option Two: To support the hosting of the celebratory memorial event to Sir Roger Gifford without renaming the meadow as Lord Mayor's Bottom. **Not recommended**

Resource Implications

10. The project costs are estimated to be £7,500 (Appendix One). and would be met through a donation from Sir Roger's memorial fund.
11. The hosting of the celebration tea will be funded by the City Corporation.

Legal Implications

12. The naming of the lower field as Lord Mayor's Bottom would comprise the inclusion of the name on an orientation (finger) post on the meadow. There is no proposal at present to seek a formal name change on maps.

Equalities Implications

13. The works are designed to encourage wider use of the Gifford Wood and to encourage visitors to explore Epping Forest and it is considered that there are positive impacts for local children and protected equality groups.

Charity Implications

14. Epping Forest is a registered charity (number 232990). Charity Law obliges Members to ensure that the decisions they take in relation to the Charity must be taken in the best interests of the Charity.

Climate Implications

15. None.

Conclusion

16. A celebratory memorial is planned at Gifford Wood for Sir Roger Gifford and has been developed in association with Lady Clare Gifford to recognise the former Lord Mayor's key role in developing this important extension of Epping Forest.
17. The memorial will include site improvements to encourage access, a celebration tree planting and a tea hosted by the City Corporation and attended by the Lord Mayor's full party including consorts.

18. The City of London's Education Unit are planning a schools education action day based at Gifford Wood for the spring/early summer 2021.

Appendices

Appendix One: Sir Roger Gifford Memorial Proposal

Background Papers

- Epping Forest Woodland Planting Appeal SEF 28/12 Report to the Epping Forest and Commons, 10 September 2012

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