

Committee	Dated:
Epping Forest Consultative Epping Forest & Commons	09/02/2022 09/05/2022
Subject: Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 1952-2022 Queen's Green Canopy – Proposed Tree Planting Projects (SEF 11/22)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Y
If so, how much?	£40,000
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director Environment	For Discussion
Report author: Beth West, Environment Department	

Summary

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, Epping Forest has been nominated as part of the 70-strong Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative, with successful woodland nominations being announced by the QGC Board in late Spring 2022. Building on anticipated approval, this report outlines how the City Corporation could facilitate a wide range of QGC tree-planting activities across the Square Mile and wider Open Spaces across Greater London, engaging the Lord Mayor, school groups and wider communities.

It is proposed that the City Corporation take an active role in the QGC activities over the course of the next 14 months and align activities in numerous locations around supporting the QGC campaign. Supporting a range of tree-planting activities at Epping Forest for between 159-2,300 trees at 31 locations, is forecast to cost an estimated £40,000 between January 2022 and March 2023 which will require additional fund-raising activity.

Recommendations

Consultative Committee Members are asked to:

- Note the report
- Provide comment for consideration by members of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee.

Main Report

Background

1. Several City Corporation City Gardens and Open Spaces have previously been utilized to provide planting opportunities to celebrate previous Royal visits, Coronations and Jubilees. At Epping Forest several Royal commemorative initiatives have been provided including a 79-strong Black Poplar Avenue planted on Woodford Green in 1886 (and replaced in 1966), to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee of 1887, to the planting of a Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Grove in 1953.
2. The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a major tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which celebrates the 70 years of the Queen's reign between 1952 and 2022. QGC invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee".
3. Epping Forest, alongside other City Corporation Natural Environment sites at Ashted Common and Burnham Beeches, have been nominated as part of the 70-strong Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative, with successful woodland nominations being announced by the QGC Board in late Spring 2022.
4. Epping Forest was also nominated in 2016 as one of four Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) woodlands across the UK, designated alongside woodlands and new plantings across the Commonwealth. Prince Harry visited the Forest in March 2017 planting an Oak tree on Queens Green, High Beach opposite a Red Oak planted by Queen Victoria to mark the City of London Corporation's purchase of Epping Forest and its joint dedication with Queen Victoria to the public at a public opening of Epping Forest in 1882.
5. Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools, and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees during the official planting season between October to March. Tree planting will commence again in October 2022, through to the end of the Jubilee year.
6. With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.
7. As well as inviting the planting of new trees, the QGC will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.¹

¹ <https://queensgreencanopy.org>

Current Position

8. The QGC team have requested that the Lord Mayor plant a tree in the 'iconic' Square Mile before the end of March 2022. They have separately asked if the Ancient Black Mulberry tree in Keats House can be dedicated as one of the 70 ancient trees. The QGC tree are keen for the City Corporation to be actively involved in the campaign.
9. Over the next 14 months, there are several planned initiatives that could be aligned to the QGC programme. We propose that whenever possible with timing and budget, these activities should be included as part of the City Corporation's overall contribution to the QGC.

These activities are:

- Replacing a tree in Whittington Gardens on Upper Thames Street
- Planting three new trees in Giffords Wood in Epping Forest, dedicated to the late Lord Mayor, Sir Roger Gifford. This planting was scheduled for April/May, but we propose to bring this forward to March 2022. Lady Clare is happy to accommodate this change
- Planting 5 beds outside of the City of London School on the riverside. These beds are planned to be planted between now and March with 'experimental' species and soils, which demonstrates our commitment to climate resilience alongside greening the Square Mile

10. A proposed planting programme for Epping Forest is outlined in Appendix 1.

Proposed Additional Plans

11. There are several initiatives that are currently under consideration that could be included within the City Corporation's QGC approach. We would propose to identify all relevant activities and seek to include them in our overarching QGC narrative and campaign. Some proposed additional plans include:
 - Tree planting activities within the City Gardens and where possible, churchyards and rooftops within the Square Mile. We would propose to hold all tree planting activities other than at Whittington Gardens (see above) until the October 2022-March 2023 period so that we can assess/vet any requests to plant trees within the Square Mile, and then allocate planting activities as 'awarded'. It is estimated that this will include only approximately 10 trees based on current space availability. Additional budget may be required to

purchase appropriate trees and for any ceremony, although we would request that those wishing to plant trees cover the costs of any ceremony.

- Tree planting activities within the Open Spaces outside the Square Mile. Looking at the longer 10-year plan, we would assess any near-term tree planting plans and determine if these can be undertaken during the October 2022-March 2023 period.
- Identify within our conservation plans, particularly with regard to ancient trees, where any activities can be adapted to be included in the QGC plans.
- A new 50-tree plantation at Epping Forest planted by Commonwealth Commissioners during the Commonwealth Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in London.
- Work with our apprenticeship programmes, as well as those of our local authority partners, to identify where we can celebrate or add to existing skills programmes on green skills.
- Engage with the education teams to determine where school children can be more involved in these activities; for example, it is already planned for primary school children to go to Epping Forest as part of the Giffords Woods tree planting programme.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

12. The recommendations of this report support the Corporate Plan, with particular reference to the following aims:

a. Contribute to a flourishing society

- i. People enjoy good health and wellbeing
- ii. Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.

b. Shape Outstanding Environments

- i. We inspire enterprise, excellence, creativity and collaboration
- ii. We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment
- iii. Our spaces are secure, resilient and well maintained.

13. The report supports the Open Spaces Business Plan as follows:

a. Open Spaces and historic sites are thriving and accessible.

- i. Our open spaces, heritage and cultural assets are protected, conserved and enhanced
- ii. London has clean air and mitigates flood risk and climate change

Strategic Implications

14. These initiatives will allow the City Corporation to be able to become a City Champion for the QGC and demonstrate our relevance in national campaigns, reinforcing our iconic role in the national consciousness.

Financial Implications

15. Additional funds may be required if all the activities, that would have been delivered in future years, are brought forward for QGC ceremonies. It is anticipated that the cost of planting between 159 and 2,300 trees at 31 locations in Epping Forest will require additional spending of an estimated £40,000. This expenditure will require fundraising activity and Committee approval prior to committing to the proposed activities.
16. To be fully successful in delivering a holistic campaign, it is proposed that a senior manager work in this programme full time. Therefore, the salary and costs for this individual will need to be budgeted and come from local risk. Additional communications resource may also be required.

Legal Implications

17. The general powers of the Conservators outlined in the Epping Forest acts 1878 & 1880 include at section 33(if.) a power to '*Plant trees and shrubs for shelter and ornament*'. Tree planting within the Special Area of Conservation and Site of Special Scientific Interest is discouraged in favour of natural regeneration and would be subject to a consent process managed by natural England.

Risk Implications

18. No additional risks have been identified beyond the usual risks within the Open Spaces.

Equality Implications

19. There should be no equality implications for these activities; however, we can make efforts to ensure that women and unrepresented groups are engaged in the apprenticeship and education programmes.

Climate Implications

20. These activities will enhance and shine a spotlight on the City Corporation's Climate Action Strategy in a positive way.

Charity Implications

21. 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.

Conclusion

22. As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) team have approved the City Corporation to become involved in QGC activities. It is proposed that the City Corporation take an active role in the QGC activities over the course of the next 14 months and align activities in numerous locations around supporting the QGC campaign, through the creation and promotion of QGC activities across the Square Mile and the Open Spaces, engaging the Lord Mayor, school groups and wider communities.

Appendix – Proposed Planting Projects

Contact

Beth West, Interim Director of Open Spaces, Department of the Environment
E: beth.west@cityoflondon.gov.uk