

Notes from a meeting held to discuss the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) Initiative held in the Town Council Offices on Thursday 15th July 2021 at 14.00

Attending Councillors - Meakin, Hill and Everett

Others - Sylvia Starkey, Town Clerk

Background to the Initiative

It was explained that the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

The Queen's Green Canopy will create a network of individual trees, avenues, copses and whole woodlands in honour of The Queen's service and the legacy she has built. This will create a green legacy of its own, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate, now and for the future.

A general discussion took place on how to develop this initiative for Wem and several ideas were considered including:

- **Individual Tree Planting Initiative** – It was suggested that to encourage the public to take part a collect a tree day could be held on the Jubilee Square in the autumn / winter where members of the public will be invited to collect a free tree for planting in their own garden to commemorate the jubilee. Trees, canes and guards could be provided along with advice on planting possibly with stalls from the Woodland Trust, Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Wem Area Climate Change Forum. A small certificate could be given to everyone who collects a tree and they could be encouraged to send in a photo of the tree which can then be mapped and a photo montage created.

Recommendation – that the Town Council looks to apply to either Shropshire Council or The Woodland Trust for free trees, stakes and guards to support this project and agrees to organise a collect a tree day in the autumn/ winter.

- **Queens Canopy – creation of new woodland areas in the town from woodland trust website**, Two potential locations for the creation of small woodlands were discussed one in the North of the town and another on land owned by Thomas Adams School. It was agreed that Cllr Everett would approach the land owner of both areas to discuss the ideas further.
- **Commemorative Jubilee Tree** – it was suggested that the Lord Lieutenant could be asked to plant a commemorative tree in the Millennium Green to commemorate the jubilee.

Recommendation that permission is sought from trustees of The Millennium Green to plant a feature tree and plaque to mark the jubilee that is funded by the Town Council.