

## Background

A working party established by the Town Council on 24.6.21 composed of Sylvia Starkey, Andrew Everett, Mandy Meakin and Duncan Hill was tasked with identifying proposals for how the town can become involved in the Plant a Tree for the Jubilee project.

A report was put to the council meeting on 29.7.21 and the working party has discussed the matter further and via email and would like to propose the following project

## Project Aim

To plant 70 trees on land in Wem whether it be private gardens on privately owned land to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee.

## Proposal

To offer up to 70 trees to residents of Wem Town to be planted in gardens or private land from the Species to be offered Rowan: Silver birch: Field maple: and Wild cherry.

The species selected have been recommended by the Woodland Trust as being suitable for small gardens. These species of trees are in stock and can be planted all year round.

Max of 2 trees per household.

To ensure that all trees are collected and that there is no wastage, residents will need to reserve trees in advance and an order will be made for trees once 70 trees have been reserved. Arrangements will then be made to hold two collection events where the trees can be collected and information handed out along with planting advice.

## Mapping

A database will be held of where the trees have been planted for future records

## Promotion

The offer of trees can be promoted locally on noticeboards etc and via social media and through the local press, radio, schools and youth groups. If take up is low, it could be extended to Wem Rural and neighbouring parishes as well.

## Finance

A local nursery has offered to supply the trees at a cost of £2 per tree (this will provide a 30cm - 60cm high tree that will not need a stake and a guard) **total maximum cost of £140 + VAT.**

So far £60 has been donated by the public towards this project therefore there may be a shortfall of £100.

## Other Schemes

Shropshire Council is running its free tree scheme again this year but this is focusing on planting groups of native trees and shrubs as copses and small areas of woodland, to maximise the benefits for landscape and wildlife around the county.

The Woodland Trust is also running a free tree scheme, but this is only open to Schools and Community Groups and the areas where the trees are planted must be open to the public

**Working Party Recommendation**

**That £100 is allocated from the Town Council's climate change budget for this project.**