

QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY TREE PLANTING

Head of Service: Ian Dyer, Head of Operational Services
Wards affected: College Ward; Town Ward; Woodcote Ward;
Appendices (attached):

Summary

To request permission from the Epsom & Walton Downs Conservators to plant an English Oak tree on Epsom & Walton Downs in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Recommendation (s)

The Conservators are asked to:

- (1) Grant permission for the procurement of a large specimen English Oak tree to be procured and planted on The Hill, Epsom Downs in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.**
- (2) Grant permission for Officers to organise a small tree planting ceremony in honour of the occasion.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 The Queen's Green Canopy is a nationwide initiative which was originally created to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Queen's Green Canopy was due to conclude in December 2022 at 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.

2 Background

- 2.1 At the 20 June 2022 meeting of the Conservators, it was noted with deep regret, the needless damage to several trees, including the loss of one long established and highly valued tree, during the Derby Festival.

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- 2.2 As a result of this discussion, officers pledged to investigate the possibility of progressing the work on planting a tree for the Queen's Green Canopy on the Downs, as part of the remedial action that will need to take place to replace the damaged trees.
- 2.3 Funds have now been identified and following advice from the Council's Tree Officer it is proposed that an English Oak Tree is planted on the Hill in close proximity to the large, vandalised tree.
- 2.4 The new English Oak will be planted during a small tree planting ceremony, in accordance with the wishes of His Majesty The King, who has requested that The Queen's Green Canopy initiative is extended to the end of March 2023 to give people the opportunity to plant trees in memoriam to honour Her Majesty.
- 2.5 If the Committee agree with this proposal, officers will work with the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and the Clerk to the Conservators to make the necessary arrangements.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

- 3.1 Equality Impact Assessment
 - 3.1.1 None for the purpose of this report
- 3.2 Crime & Disorder
 - 3.2.1 None for the purpose of this report
- 3.3 Safeguarding
 - 3.3.1 None for the purpose of this report
- 3.4 Dependencies
 - 3.4.1 None for the purpose of this report
- 3.5 Other
 - 3.5.1 None

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The sum of £350 which will cover the purchase of the tree, stakes, ties and young tree maintenance can be funded from the Conservator's miscellaneous expenses budget.
- 4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** Financial implications are included in the body of the report.

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5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications for the purpose of this report
- 5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:
Green and Vibrant
- 6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** Planting trees has a positive impact on the environment and helps to reduce the effects of climate change.
- 6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None
- 6.5 **Partnerships:** None

7 Background papers

- 7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- Minutes of the Conservators Meeting - 20 June 2022

Other papers:

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