

FAR COTTON AND DELAPRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Report to: Council 19 October 2021

Summary: A report of Far Cotton and Delapre Community Council's participation in the Queens Green Canopy Project.

1.0 Background

The Queens Green Canopy is an initiative to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

“The Queen’s Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee”.

Communities will be encouraged to enhance the 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. 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.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, The Queen’s Green Canopy 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”.

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/>

2.0 Summary of action to date:

Far Cotton and Delapre Community Council have previously agreed to take part in the initiative. Residents were invited to suggest locations for tree planting through the newsletter.

The Clerk has had meetings with Alice Whitehead of the “Save Our Trees” group and Nick Allen, Executive Officer of the University of Northampton.

The Clerk also attended a meeting arranged by NcALC, the meeting was attended by the thirty largest parishes in Northamptonshire, officers from WNC, and Paul Parsons former High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, who is co-ordinating QGC across Northamptonshire. The meeting gave all parties the opportunity to share ideas and discuss issues where the parish (community) council does not own land.

3.0 Suggestions discussed with Alice Whitehead Save Our Trees

- Planting along the 18-metre diagonal path near the children’s play area on the REC. Flowering cherries or prunus would bring colour and biodiversity to the area.
- Around the REC carpark, near the pharmacy. There are currently bollards along a 63-metre stretch.
- The borders of Queen Eleanor School - perhaps working with the school to plant trees in their hedge row or edges of their playing field.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small scale planting on the greens around the area - there are greens at Delapre Crescent, Milton Way, Gloucester Avenue/Parkfield, roundabout at Rothersthorpe Road/Hunsbarrow Road, Euston Road, Glastonbury Road/Friars Avenue. Planting on the greens would be perfect for allowing residents to engage with their trees and maintain them i.e., watering. • A tree trail to link the trees. Save our trees have previously done trails for Far Cotton, Delapre Abbey and Becketts Park. • Trees may be available from the Woodland Trust (although these are saplings) The Rotary Club are working on a one hundred Trees for Northampton project - and have a small amount of money for trees. <p>4.0 University of Northampton Following a meeting with the University of Northampton they have said they are keen to be involved. The University are especially interested in the creation of a tree trail which could include the campus and working on small scale projects on some of the greens in the area. (Paul Parsons was also very keen on the idea of bringing smaller spaces into use and increasing biodiversity).</p> <p>5.0 Next steps The council will need to decide whether to move forward with any or all of the suggestions detailed. Free trees are available through the Woodland Trust although these are usually saplings and are easily subject to vandalism. The Clerk can make an application for a tree pack. The council may wish to consider setting a budget for this project, so that half standard or standard trees (semi-mature) can be sought rather than just planting saplings.</p>	
Implications:		
Council objectives:	Improving the Environment	x
Equalities & Human Rights	There are no equalities and human rights issues	x
Crime and Disorder	Crime and disorder have been considered	x
Biodiversity	There are no bio-diversity implications	x
Financial	There are no financial implications at this stage	
	There will be financial implications	x
	There is provision within the budget	
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure Decisions may have potential for income generation	
Legal	Power: Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s. 31	x
	Other considerations: None	
Risk Management	Material risks exist and these are currently under assessment.	x
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inherent risk score: - Residual risk score: 	
Person originating this report: Kate Houlihan Clerk		
Date: 13 October 2021		