

NACO Newsletter 17 May 2021

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

At their annual meetings this month Councils across the country will be electing Mayors or Council Chairs to serve for the coming year. Those elected will be the first of two holders of that office who will be able to lay claim to the title Platinum Jubilee Mayor or Chair.

Sunday 6 February 2022 will see the seventieth anniversary of The Queen's Accession, marking the first Platinum Jubilee in the long history of British Monarchs.

Although the Platinum Jubilee Year begins in February 2022, many of the celebrations will take place around the special bank holiday weekend from Friday 3 to Monday 6 June, 2022. Nevertheless, the Civic Heads who are elected this May have an important opportunity to offer civic leadership within their communities to one of the most enduring of the Platinum Jubilee commemorations.

The Queen's Green Canopy

www.queensgreencanopy.org

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique, UK-wide, tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, by inviting people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee." Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, towns, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to plant trees from October 2021 when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage the 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 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.

Tree planting season - October to March

The QGC will encourage everyone to learn more about the best way to plant trees so that they survive and flourish for years to come. Trees and hedgerows must be planted with care, at the right time of year, in the right place and with species that are not prone to prevailing tree diseases. The QGC initiative will encourage planting during the official planting season, October to March, to optimise the chance of trees surviving and flourishing. The countdown to planting season begins at the launch on 17 May. People are encouraged to use this summer to plan their Jubilee tree planting projects and be ready for October.

The Queen's Green Canopy Map

From October, all planting projects can be uploaded onto an interactive map on the new QGC website so that everyone can share and inspire others, as well as creating a green canopy of projects to cover the country. The map is embedded within the QGC website.

Lasting Benefits

This initiative is not just for areas where there are already green open spaces.

The aim is to see new planting everywhere: within crowded and congested inner cities as well as in suburbs and rural settings and in ways that involve people of all ages, from every faith and embrace all parts of every community.

The Canopy Project seeks to promote a model of stewardship through which local communities can bring more trees into public spaces. The act of planting and caring for a tree can be an effective way of increasing awareness of the environment around it.

A lot more information about the project will be forthcoming in the weeks and months ahead. However, now is the time to encourage your Civic Leaders to begin thinking about what they can do to make this initiative a success in their own communities.

How Your Mayor or Chairman Can Play A Part

Now is the time to start a conversation with your Mayor or Council Chair. Tell them about the project. Help them to appreciate the part they can play. Encourage them to use their influence. This will be one of the most enduring contributions they can make during their year in office. As they are out and about in the coming months there will be opportunities to talk about The Queen's Green Canopy, rallying enthusiasm and support amongst all those they meet.

Your Mayor or Council Chair might like to:

- Post messages on social media in the next few days saying something like "Great to hear about @QueensGreenCanopy. Hope that everyone will get behind it and start planning where, come the planting season, they will Plant a Tree for the Jubilee!"
- *#queensgreencanopy #plantatreeforthejubilee #jubileetree #qgclaunch*
- write to Council colleagues and encourage them to make sure your Council is taking part;
- speak to local schools and get the children on board to do their bit;
- contact local scout and guide groups to bring them on board;
- use social media to promote the scheme to local residents' groups, amenity groups, faith groups and local charities;
- find out what local businesses can do to sponsor tree planting;

There are plans to create an on-line map from October 2021, showing where the Jubilee trees are being planted. Your Civic Head can play a valuable part in making sure your local area has its share of dots on that map.

Jim Babbington

Vice Chair, NACO,

vicechair@naco.uk.com

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