

# **Drinkstone Parish Council**

## **Tree Warden's Report**

**Report to the Ordinary Meeting Dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**Agenda Item; Councillor Portfolios**

### **The Queen's Green Canopy**

**(QGC)**

### **Platinum Jubilee 2022**

#### **1. Background**

I have joined 2 zoom meetings recently to learn and discuss how we in Suffolk can play our part in celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by encouraging people to plant and protect trees as a legacy to Her Majesty's service to the Nation.

Everyone from community groups, schools, scout groups, corporates, counties, councils and parishes are encouraged to plant trees – from saplings to majestic avenues of significant trees – to mark this extraordinary occasion. As well as inviting people to plant new trees, existing trees and woodland will also be dedicated to QGC by erecting commemorative plaques to mark the occasion and preserve forests for the future in The Queen's name.

#### **2. Who is running the Queen's Green Canopy?**

The Queen's Green Canopy is an independent initiative led by an Executive Team drawn from individuals seconded from across Government and the charity, Cool Earth. The team is supported by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and a comprehensive Advisory Board. In Suffolk a local Steering Group has been set up under The Leadership of The Lord Lieutenant (Claire Euston) to run the project in the County and co-ordinate activity with The Festival of Suffolk that will include a wider set of community and arts events under the banner of "Recovery, Reset and Recharge." The Suffolk Community Foundation is setting up a fund to receive donations to support QGC tree planting projects. It is not clear yet how this will operate and the trees will be distributed.

#### **3. When will it start?**

The QGC has been announced by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for the

Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and DEFRA as part of the official Platinum Jubilee celebrations in 2022. The initiative will be formally launched on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The campaign will run until the end of 2022, the year of the Platinum Jubilee.

#### **4. How do people get involved?**

All information will be available on The Queen's Green Canopy Website, launched in May.

Schools and community groups will be able to apply online for 3 million FREE saplings available through the Woodland Trust between May 2021 and the end of 2022.

Fundraising will enable UK-wide planting of single trees or Platinum Jubilee Avenues of trees to mark this occasion. Private landowners will be encouraged to plant copses and new woods, or extend existing woodland in honour of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. **These will not be subject to any access requirements.** Each project will be asked to complete a simple form outlining the scheme so that they may be tracked beyond 2022. Each project will be marked by a special commemorative plaque (a template will be available on the website) and will be uploaded onto a map of the UK to track all QGC projects over the two-year period. The Queen will receive the map of all the projects planted in Her Majesty's name as a gift from the Nation.

#### **5. What we could do in Drinkstone**

Given the enthusiasm and support for tree planting that we received as part of the Neighbourhood Plan consultation process and the good take up in Drinkstone of the Woodland Trust's/Suffolk Tree Wardens' Network free trees scheme, I think the QGC project provides a great opportunity to see if we can achieve a landmark tree planting scheme in Drinkstone. This could involve an avenue or copse of 70 trees, individual specimen(s) and dedicating an existing well loved and significant tree, such as the Rattlesden Road Allotments oak. We will need the co-operation and support of local landowners to achieve these objectives.

#### **6. Recommendation**

I recommend that once the QGC has been officially launched on 17<sup>th</sup> May, the PC contacts the major landowners in the Parish to see if they would be willing to allow an agreed tree planting scheme to take place on their land. The Parish Council should also seek ideas from the local community for tree planting schemes that people would like to see to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Once we have received these ideas and responses, the Parish Council will need to decide which one(s) provide the best public benefit based on suitability, visibility and public benefit. We can then seek the most appropriate sources of funding for schemes to be planted during the winter of 2021/2022 and late autumn/early winter 2022.

Councillor Peter Holborn  
Drinkstone Parish Tree Warden

