

Brixham Town Council (BTC) Project Initiation Document

Name	Linda McGuirk, Deputy Town Clerk
Agenda Date	26th July 2021
Project Name:	The Queen's Green Canopy – 'Plant a tree for the Jubilee'.
Committee	Community & Environment Committee.

Summary

To celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service, the Queen is encouraging everyone to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022. Her Majesty and The Prince of Wales planted the first Jubilee tree in the grounds of Windsor Castle in March, to mark the launch of the QGC.

This Project Initiation Document (PID) will provide information to Councillors to allow a decision to be made about participating in the Queens Green Canopy (QGC).

Recommendations

The Community & Environment Committee recommends to Full Council, that Brixham Town Council:

1. Participates in the Queens Green Canopy.
2. Purchases a suitable tree and plants it at Dixons Land Allotment Gardens.
3. Purchases and installs a plaque beside the tree to commemorate the occasion.

Further Information

Possible locations

Location	Comments	Land ownership
Wall Park allotment gardens	Would be suitable for a Hedgerow species, potentially help to restrict access to deer which are eating crops. This area would benefit from restoration of the hedge.	Brixham Town Council
Dixons Land allotment gardens (See image below)	Plot 25 is an unused plot which has already been highlighted to be transformed into a wildlife area, including a bench and planting of a suitable sized tree. The plot measures just under 60m ² and backs onto an area of dense overgrowth. It is not known what lies beneath the overgrowth but there are plans to investigate and clear the area if possible allowing for expansion of the managed wildlife area.	Brixham Town Council
Jubilee Gardens	Green space	Torbay Council
St Marys Park	Green space	Torbay Council
Edinburgh Road	Green space located to the rear of properties 2,4,6 and 8 Edinburgh Road.	Housing Association or Torbay Council?
Penn Meadows	Green space	Torbay Council
Summercourt Way field	Green space	Torbay Council
Parkham Field	Green space	Torbay Council

Heath Road/ Washbourne Close	Green space	Torbay Council
Battery Gardens	Green space	Torbay Council
Central Car Park	Public car park	Torbay Council
Furzeham Greens	Green space	Torbay Council
North Boundary Road	Green space/ playground	Torbay Council

Preferred location:

Consideration has been given to the above locations. It is easier to plant a tree on land owned by the Town Council. Two locations have been shortlisted for consideration:

1. Jubilee Gardens

Jubilee Gardens are situated off Berry Head Road and adjacent to Breakwater Beach. The Gardens are a tranquil green space popular with residents and visitors. The area is owned by Torbay Council. Two emails have been sent to Torbay Council to find out whether there are any constraints with planting in this area and how to seek permission. No response has been received.



Image taken from Google Maps (accessed 15th July 2021). Jubilee Gardens, Brixham.



Image taken from Google Maps (accessed 19th July 2021). Ariel view of Jubilee Gardens, Brixham.

2. Dixons Land allotment gardens

Plot 25 is an unused plot that has been earmarked to be transformed into a wildlife area, including a bench and planting of a suitable sized tree. The plot measures just under 60m² and backs onto an area of dense overgrowth. It is not known what lies beneath the overgrowth but there are plans to clear the area as part of the wildlife sanctuary.



Image taken from Google Maps (accessed 15th July 2021). Plot 25 Dixons Land, outlined in red with the area of 'no man's land' behind.

Where to buy a tree from?

Trees can be acquired from local tree nurseries. If possible, it is recommend acquiring a tree from a certified tree nursery. This will help ensure the tree is healthy and less likely to spread pests and disease. The Plant Healthy Certification Scheme and OHAS Growers Standard are examples of the kind of certifications to look out for.

What type of tree is suitable?

It is important to think about the size and spread of the trees and how the site is used as the trees grow. There are many different varieties of trees, all of which have different characteristics, purposes and needs (soil, water, nutrients). Most trees can grow in a range of conditions, though some will prefer particular soil types, if proceeding with this project, it is recommended to seek expert advice before purchasing, particularly regarding what type of species is recommended based on the location.

Trees suitable for coastal areas:

- **Pinus nigra Austriaca (Austrian Pine)**

Pinus nigra Austriaca is a rich, robust Austrian pine; a popular evergreen, due to its hardy nature, attractive deep green glossy and dense foliage and picturesque, rounded, growth habit. It is an extremely tough tree that grows a range of tough and exposed conditions; making it ideal for screening and windbreaks. It is tolerant of urban, coastal and exposed environments, although it does grow to considerable height.

- **Quercus ilex (Holm Oak)**

With its evergreen leaves, the holm oak is a bold splash of colour in the winter months. It was first introduced in the 1500s and, though it's not as adapted as our native oaks, it supports plenty of our wildlife. *Quercus ilex* is a magnificent large evergreen tree with a densely rounded habit and attractive corrugated bark. The glossy, dark green leaves are pale whitish-grey underneath. Holm oak is very hardy, and takes well to pruning but if left naturally, it will grow to 25m with a spread of 15 – 20m. The contribution of oak trees to landscapes, biodiversity, culture and economy is enormous. Renowned in history and legend, oak trees symbolise royalty, patriotism and strength. But perhaps their greatest feat is nurturing wildlife. They are a haven for a colossal 2,300 wildlife species, providing vital spaces to eat, shelter and breed.

- **Quercus cerris (Turkey Oak)**

The Turkey Oak is a fast growing, spreading, deciduous tree which has shiny robust leaves, which turn yellow-brown in autumn. Ultimate height 20 – 25m, spread 8 – 15m.

- **Sorbus aucuparia (Mountain Ash, Rowan)**

Rowan has silvery-brown bark and fern-like leaves which turn a lovely burnt red in autumn. In spring you'll find clusters of creamy-white flowers then followed by orange-red berries in autumn. It's slim so makes a perfect garden specimen tree. Rowan can grow at altitude hence its other common name, mountain ash. It is long foretold in folklore that the Rowan tree gives aid and protection against enchantment and was even hung outside houses to protect against evil.

Estimate full grown height: 8-15 metres, growing an estimated 20-40cm each year.

Purchase size and growth: The Woodland Trust sell saplings, ranging from approximately 15cm-60cm in height. Cell grown trees can be planted all year round in most situations as long as they are given the correct care.

Value to wildlife: The leaves are eaten by caterpillars of moths, including the larger Welsh wave and autumn green carpet. Flowers provide pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinating insects, while the berries are a rich source of autumn food for birds, especially blackbird, thrushes, redstart and redwing.

Preferred soil type or environmental conditions: A hardy species and will grow in most soils but prefers light, well-drained, humus-rich soil. It's ideal as a specimen tree.

Planting season

Experts recommend planting trees between October and March, when they are dormant and less likely to be damaged during planting.

Project Aims

What do you want the project to achieve?
How does it support the Council's Plan?

A new tree to enhance the natural environment.
The project supports the Council's Climate and Environment Policy.

Target

What area of the community is the target and what benefits will the project bring to them?

A tree will enhance the environment for everyone and wildlife. Creating a managed wildlife habitat will directly benefit allotment holders and the natural environment. Allotment gardens are a haven for wildlife with sightings of fox, badger, deer, squirrels.

Research already completed

Please attach all research carried out so far.

Link to the official QGC website: [The Queens Green Canopy](#)

Evidence of need

How do you know the project is needed?

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.

Cost of Project

Please detail all cost areas associated with this project. Please include actual costs if known. Please include revenue, capital and include estimate of Officer hours where possible.



4ft Rowan Tree, Bare Root,
Sorbus aucuparia Mountain Ash.
£13.33 excluding VAT



Stainless steel Memorial Plaque 100mm x
150mm £95.00 excluding VAT

Benefits

Please detail all benefits including cost savings, efficiency savings

As listed under evidence of need.

Other Organisational Support

Do you think the Council needs to work with or take advice from other organisations? If so, who?

Advice and guidance will be provided via QGC. Advice will be sought to ensure the correct size and species of tree is purchased.

Timeline

What is the length of the project work and when will the benefits be realised? Are there any time constraints?

Planting trees from October, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

Risks

Are there any risks associated with this project e.g. reputational risks for the Council or possible local sensitivities?

None

Is the project a quick win?

i.e. does it meet all the following criteria?

- a) Will cost less than £1,000
- b) All expenditure can be met from an existing budget
- c) Will take less than 5 hours of Officer time in total (including assessment, planning, working with partners, tendering / quotes) etc.
- d) Is listed within the Council's Action Plan / Strategy
- e) Does not pose any significant reputational or other risk to the Council or partners

- a) Yes
- b) 2022/23 budget planning
- c) Yes
- d) No
- e) Minimal risk

Other Information

Is there any other information which you feel would help with the project assessment? Please include links to any best practise or similar projects.

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/>

[Tree cost information](#)

[Plaque cost information](#)