



Brixham Town Council

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Town Clerk: Mrs Tracy Hallett

Report Number	09-2022a	Date	13/04/2022
Report Type	Public	Meeting	Full Council
Contact Officer	Ross Green	Job Title	Deputy Town Clerk
Report Title	The Queen's Green Canopy – 'Plant a tree for the Jubilee'		

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 2021, to mark the launch of the QGC.

The Queen's Green Canopy was discussed at the Community and Environment Committee on 26TH July 2021 and was approved at Full Council on 08TH September 2021 approving a budget of £1,000.

Experts recommend planting trees between October and March, when they are dormant and less likely to be damaged during planting. Having taken into consideration the advice from the Woodland Trust, it is considered that a Hawthorn tree would be the most suitable for this area and soil type. The tree has been purchased from Longcombe Cross Garden Centre to ensure it is planted in time for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Recommendation

The Community and Environment Committee recommends that the Town Council:

1. Agreement to the revised cost of £510 to purchase and install a bench and a plaque beside the tree to commemorate the occasion.
2. To purchase Mason Bees and Ladybirds for Bug Hotels across all allotment sites owned by the Town Council, and Mason Bees to the Town Hall. The anticipated cost will be £540 and can be taken from the Community Projects fund.

Supporting Information

Planting the right tree in the right place is important if it is to survive and thrive. Following a guide from the Woodland Trust, identifying the soil type and overcoming problem conditions, the Hawthorn tree has been selected as the most suitable. The hawthorn can support more than 300 insects. Its flowers are eaten by dormice and provide nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinating insects. Once pollinated by insects, they develop into deep-red fruits known as 'haws'. The haws are rich in antioxidants and are eaten by migrating birds as well as small mammals. The dense, thorny foliage makes fantastic

nesting shelter for many species of bird. The hawthorn is a suitable species for locations exposed to wind and near to the sea.

Bench:

Cotswold 5ft Bench at a cost of £386 from The Plastic Company based in Kingsbridge. Manufactured in their own UK factory, using timber sourced from approved suppliers and sustainable sources; all products are FSC certified. The product is Tandalised E pressure treated with the latest generation wood preservatives to protect against decay and fungal attack, ensuring a long and low maintenance service life.



Commemorative Plaque:

Commemorating our contribution to the QGC with a plaque installed on the bench. The plaque can be purchased from the Royal British Legion at a cost of £120. Made of high-quality Corten steel. The recyclable material forms a natural protective layer of reddish-brown rust over time to protect against the elements.



Plot 25 – Dixons Land Allotment Gardens

Plot 25 at Dixons Land Allotment Gardens is an unused plot which has already been highlighted to be transformed into a wildlife area, including a bench and planting of a sizeable tree.

This is a picture of Plot 25 on Dixons Land:



It is felt that a bug hotel on the plot would help attract an array of different types of insects and minibeasts such as ladybirds, bees, woodlice and spiders. The best bug hotels are eco-friendly, and built using upcycled garden materials, natural items such as leaves and sticks and re-purposed items from home that are no longer wanted. The bug hotel can be created by our Town Lengthsmen at very little cost to Brixham Town Council apart from staff time. Our bug hotel would be finished with a plaque above saying “Brixham Town Council Bug Hotel”.

These are examples:





Woodpiles for wildlife

Woodpiles are a valuable habitat for mosses, lichens and fungi, as well as many insects. Adding leaf litter can attract even more creatures, such as hibernating toads or hedgehogs. The wood can be collected by our Towns Lengthsmen whilst undertaking their duties around Brixham.

Red Mason Bees

Alongside the bug hotel the council can introduce Red Mason bees. Red mason bees are gentle, non-aggressive solitary bees that make their nests in hollow spaces rather than in hives. Red mason bees pollinate much more efficiently and effectively than honeybees and bumblebees. They happily work alongside their nectar-gathering counterparts. Guardian kits can be purchased from Solitary Bee Nesting Equipment | United Kingdom | masonbees.co.uk.

Each kit includes all the equipment and know-how to care for a small population of Red Mason bees. Bees arrive while in hibernation, inside cocoons, ready to be released outdoors into a pollen-rich green space. Once flying, the bees forage the nearby area, as

they seek resources to construct brood cells in the nesting material provided. When the adult flight season is over, guardians are left with mud-capped tubes and observation drawer cavities, all containing the next generation of bees. The nesting material is returned to MasonBees who remove any cocoons, sort and screen for parasites/diseases, and place into safe storage for winter months. In Spring Guardians receive new/clean nesting material along with a fresh stock of cocoons to release and restart the process.

This is an example of a guardian kit:



A guardian kit would also contribute to the Council's Climate and Environment objectives and it is suggested that kits should be purchased for Plot 25 and the Town Hall. The cost of the guardian kits are £75.

Ladybird Larve

The Town Council has in recent years successfully prohibited the use of pesticides within the allotments. To continue to encourage more environmentally friendly practices at the allotment gardens the Council could introduce ladybird larvae into the wildlife area which have an appetite for garden pests. Each ladybird will eat a large number of pests before pupating and emerging as a ladybird. This is a natural way to control aphids by introducing native British Ladybird Larvae. The cost of a release bag containing 100 Ladybird Larvae is £17.50. [Ladybird Larvae & Release Bags | Ladybirds & Lacewings | Green Gardener](#)

This is an example of ladybird larve that can be purchased:



Shrubs for wildlife

The low-growing, multi-stemmed nature of a shrub provides excellent cover for wildlife. Shrubs can also provide flowers, leaves and berries for nectar and food. This is felt to be a suitable as shrubs are a great, low-maintenance way to fill space and add interest to the wildlife area on Plot 25.

These actions by Brixham Town Council will continue to show its commitment to the Climate and Environment policy, seeking to improve the impact of climate and environment on the town to help make a positive difference to Brixham as a place to live and work.