

Classification: Public

Key Decision: No

Gravesham Borough Council

Report to: Cabinet
Date: 21st February 2022
Reporting officer: Melanie Norris, Director (Communities)
Subject: Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Purpose and summary of report:

To present Members of Cabinet with an update of the events that will take place to mark the occasion of the Queens Platinum Jubilee

Recommendations:

The report is for information purposes only

Key Implications:	
Item	Implications
Legal	None
Finance and Value for Money	The funding requirement for these events is expected to be in the region of £132,000. £105,000 is to be financed by existing COMF monies with £9,000 met from existing budgets held for leisure and the town centre and £18,000 met by the Corporate Priorities Reserve.
Corporate Plan	These events for the Queens Platinum Jubilee help against our commitments in the Corporate Plan for a Carbon Neutral Borough, Improving the Local Environment, Creating Clean, welcoming Neighbourhoods and Parks and an Attractive Town Centre, along with improving resident well-being and developing a cohesive and resilient community.
Climate Change	Planting trees is one of the efficient and effective ways to fight climate change. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as they grow and by doing so help to reduce CO2 levels in our environment. Mature trees can absorb up to 150kg of CO2 In addition to this, trees also play a crucial role in regulating local climates, providing food and shelter for animals, preventing soil erosion and helping to regulate water supplies. For example a mature British Oak tree can support up to 2300 species. UK green spaces remove up to 1.3 billion kg's of air pollution each year.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 In 2022, her Majesty the Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service, having accented to the throne on 6th February 1952 when her majesty was 25 years old
- 1.2 There will be a year long Platinum Jubilee celebrations throughout the UK, the Commonwealth and around the world as communities and people come together to celebrate The Queens historic reign. Throughout the year, Her Majesty and members of the Royal Family will travel around the country to undertake a variety of engagements to mark this historic occasion culminating with the focal point of the Platinum Jubilee weekend in June
- 1.3 An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June, will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the UK to come together to celebrate the historic milestone across the four days, the celebrations will include public events and community activities, as well as national marks of reflection on the Queens 70 years of service.

2. Gravesham Events planned for the Queens Platinum Jubilee

The Queen's Green Canopy

- 2.1 This nationwide programme encourages individuals, community groups, schools, businesses and councils to create a network of trees that will help support the environment and fight the climate crisis
- 2.2 As part of this scheme the council has the following projects for Gravesham:-
- 2.3 Woodlands Park – mature and standard tree planting, along with hedgerow planting (approx 1000) – See Appendix 1 for planting scheme
 - 2.3.1 We will also develop a sensory garden to replace the broken and unused crazy golf course in Woodlands park – See Appendix 2 for Sensory Garden plan
- 2.4 Windmill Hill – Refurbishment of the beacon and once reinstated a flower bed around the base of the beacon.
 - 2.4.1 New seating to installed on the hill (Mindful moments) – See appendix 3
 - 2.4.2 Planting a tree at the top of Windmill Hill
- 2.5 Istead Rise – In conjunction with The Rotary Club 70 trees (whips) will be planted in one area of the park to be decided
 - 2.5.1 Introducing a curved bench to promote good health in conjunction with MIND or CALM charities
 - 2.5.2 Hedging will also be planted around the park (500)
- 2.6 Culverstone – 1200 trees (whips) will be planted and also a curved bend to held mental health (working with MIND or CALM charities)

- 2.7 Camer Park – Tree Planting throughout the woodland space (600) and installation of new play equipment
- 2.8 Generic – Spring bulb planting – thousands of spring bulbs have been planted at various locations across the Borough such as Perry Street, Lawrence Square, Carl Ekman House/Shepherd Street/Valley Drive and Whitehall.
- 2.9 In addition sprayed on painted crowns will appear in greens spaces similar to the successful poppy scheme around Remembrance Day
- 2.10 Ten standard trees will be planted across the Borough and the Council will work with Parish councils and communities to arrange the location
- 2.11 Social Housing – An easy to maintain tree will be planted in the grounds of an empty property, that has an appropriate garden as part of the void works. The incoming tenant will be notified of the significance.
- 2.12 All trees and hedging will be added to The Queens green canopy map and appropriate signage provided by Royal British Legion industries will be added at key locations (see appendix 3)

3. Events

- 3.1 The Council will hold the biggest street party on 26th May at the Community Square, inviting schools to take part and also inviting residents who were born in 1952 to attend. The Lower Square will be full of trestle tables and we will provide a picnic lunch and entertainment from a stage erected at the lower end of the square. The event will be in partnership with Cohesion + and the Mayor of Gravesham will host the party and lead the celebrations.

4. Beacon Lighting

- 4.1 The Council will take part in the Platinum Jubilee Beacons. The United Kingdom has a long tradition of celebrating Royal Jubilees, weddings and coronations with the lighting of beacons which will continue to mark the Platinum Jubilee. Over 1,500 beacons will be lit throughout the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Overseas Territories.
- 4.2 For the first time, beacons will also be lit in each of the capital cities of the commonwealth.
- 4.3 The Beacon lighting will take place on 2nd June, with the official ceremony taking place at Windmill Hill, where the refurbished beacon will be lit. The mobile beacon will also be lit at the Civic Centre.

5. Town Dressing

- 5.1 The Union Flags and bunting will go up in the Town Centre to celebrate St. George's Day in April and then further official Platinum Jubilee flags will go up in May. In addition, the community square will be decorated for the street party.
- 5.2 All planters and hanging baskets in the town centre will have a red white and blue scheme for 2022 to add to the dressing
- 5.3 The community group Urban Knitters are also knitting mementoes of the celebrations which will be placed in locations around town for residents to find and keep as a souvenir of the celebrations (see appendix 5)

- 5.4 We will also have a month long celebration in the St. George's Arts Centre with an exhibition of the Boroughs royal connections and artist led workshops where residents can learn how to make dressings and crowns for the royal celebration.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 The following documents are to be published with the report:

APPENDIX 1 Planting Scheme

APPENDIX 2 Sensory Garden

APPENDIX 3 New seating to installed on the hill (Mindful moments)

APPENDIX 4 Knitted decorations – crown and queen

APPENDIX 5 Previous jubilee celebration

7. Background Documents

- 7.1 There are no background documents.

- 7.2 The following background documents were used:

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Secondary Implications	
Risk Assessment	The appropriate paperwork will be completed for all events and planting of the green canopy
Data Protection Impact Assessment	<p><i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i></p> <p>a. Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of personal data or special category data or criminal offence data? A definition of each type of data can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website via the above links. No</p> <p>b. If yes to question a, have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice? Not applicable</p> <p>c. If no to question b, please seek advice from your nominated DPIA assessor or the Information Governance Team at gdpr@medway.gov.uk. Not applicable</p>
Equality Impact Assessment	<p>a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? If yes, please explain answer. No</p> <p>b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer. Yes, a number of parks are being improved through the Queens Green Canopy, with a number in urban areas, which adjoin deprived communities. This will give families access to good quality parks and open spaces, including new and improved play facilities in various sites. The street party will include children from schools within the Borough and many of those schools in and around the Civic Centre contain children from many different cultural backgrounds, who will come together in celebration of a monarch who has always been a true supporter of the Commonwealth countries.</p> <p><i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i></p>
Crime and Disorder	The changes to parks and open spaces will be in full consultation with Kent police colleagues to ensure crime and anti-social behaviour is taken into account in the design of the wooded areas and play equipment.
Digital and website implications	All events will be advertised through our website and social media channels
Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults	A full events plan will be considered at our Safety Advisory Group which will ensure full safeguarding considerations are taken into account