

THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY - NACO INITIATIVE

11 March 2022

We are just four weeks away from 11 March – the day on which **NACO** has invited all Civic Heads to plant a tree as a national civic tribute to The Queen in Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee year. The take up so far has been disappointing. If this is to be a fitting tribute then we need far greater participation and we urgently need your help to make that happen.

The day chosen is Friday 11 March 2022 - the seventieth day of the year in which The Queen marks the seventieth anniversary of her accession. It will be a major initiative as part of **The Queen's Green Canopy** project.

Can you please use your local civic officer networks to push the idea to other civic officers in your area and try to gain their support. If you have neighbouring networks that you are in touch with then use those too. Just by way of a reminder here is what we said about the project in a newsletter at the end of last year:

Many Councils are already giving the Canopy project their support and have started to plant or will be planting trees. This Civic Tribute does not need to be yet another new planting. If trees are about to go into the ground, perhaps the last one can be held back until 11 March, when it can be planted by your Civic Head, as his or her tribute to The Queen in Her Majesty's Jubilee Year, which will begin during their term in office.

It would be great if as many Council Chairs, Lord Mayors, Mayors, Lord Provosts and Provosts could take part, drawn from parishes, towns, districts, boroughs, cities and counties across the UK. In fact, it is essential that a good number take part or this just won't work.

Here are some tips on the practicalities if you have yet to commit.

It is unlikely that you will need planning permission for a tree planting, but do get arboricultural advice about type of tree, initial care of it and its rate of growth in relation to its surroundings.

Any good garden centre can advise and supply, if your own Parks Department can't or won't help in the time available. A garden centre might even waive the cost in return for positive publicity.

If your council's decision making process is frustratingly slow and 11 March looks unrealistic, then think wider on how to get something done quickly. How about finding a housing development with a showhome (everywhere has them) and pay them a visit to ask if they will plant a tree on site? They will get great PR and your civic head will have their moment on the big day – all at no cost to the council.

Don't worry about design, manufacture and installation of a plaque at this stage – get the tree in the ground on 11 March and do the plaque later, perhaps at the Jubilee Bank Holiday in June.

Sometimes it can take less time to get something done, than it takes to ponder the difficulties and talk about the potential problems.

What is needed at this stage is simply an indication that your Council is likely to take part. To do this just email events@naco.uk.com with the name of your Council and saying 'yes, we are hoping to take part / yes, we will take part'.

For all of this to happen, **NACO** needs your help. Please do all you can to make it a success.