

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Community &amp; Environment</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022</b> <b>7.00pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>J MacArthur - Communities and Marketing Manager and Deputy Chief Officer</b> <b>On behalf of the 'Trees for Congleton' Group</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>16</b>		
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Planting 70 Cherry Trees for the Platinum Jubilee</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II being on the throne. To mark the platinum jubilee there is a national campaign, "<a href="#">The Queen's Green Canopy</a>" asking people, towns and parishes 'to a plant tree for the jubilee'.</p> <p>Through the Lord Lieutenant's office, towns and parishes are being encouraged to get involved in the project. The 'Trees for Congleton' group, as part of their general campaign to plant 30,000 trees in Congleton, has recommended that Congleton Town Council may like to get involved in the Queen's Green Canopy by planting 70 blossoming trees (suggesting flowering cherry) in Congleton.</p> <p>As well as being attractive to look at and removing carbon, Cherry trees are enjoyed by wildlife, particularly birds and are a source of community food.</p>		
<b>Proposal</b>	<p>That the Community and Environment Committee delegate responsibility to the Congleton Green Working Group to work with the 'Trees for Congleton' Group to establish a project to purchase and plant 70 Cherry Trees.</p> <p>Initial thoughts from the group are that these trees could be planted in the following places</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One to each of the care homes (9)</li> <li>• One to each of the schools – (11)</li> </ul> <p>This would leave around 50 for verges of the various major roads leading into Congleton, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A34 Astbury end near Padgbury Lane</li> <li>• Sandbach Road</li> <li>• Holmes Chapel Road</li> <li>• Buxton Road</li> <li>• Macclesfield Rd/Triangle verge near Jackson Road</li> <li>• A34 Manchester Road</li> </ul> <p>Any remaining trees could be planted at a suitable site in conjunction with 'It's Your Neighbourhood' groups in Congleton.</p> <p>Detailed work and consultation would need to be carried out on soil types, gaining permissions from Cheshire East Council Highways and support from nearby residents.</p>		

	<p>Ideally it is hoped that some of the trees could be planted before the end of March, but if availability continues to prove difficult it may need to be an autumn project.</p> <p>It is difficult to be precise about the cost of the trees as this depends on availability, variety etc. We will buy the trees from a local nursery and the current price seems to be around £15 per tree but it could be more. We are proposing that Congleton Town Council fund the purchase of the trees together with stakes and any tree guards required. We will arrange for volunteers to plant the trees.</p> <p>The final cost is likely to be in the region of £1200.</p>
<b>Environmental</b>	Trees help to remove carbon dioxide and help to improve our environment. The trees will be purchased from a local supplier.
<b>Equality</b>	This will be a community project and every effort will be made to prevent barriers to people getting involved in the planting of the trees.
<b>Financial</b>	Cherry Trees are currently around £15 per tree and stakes and guards around £3. The estimated cost from the Tree Group is £1260. Seeking funding will be part of the project.
<b>Decision Requested</b>	For the Town Council to support this project in principle and delegate responsibility for delivering the project to the Congleton Green Working Group in partnership with the 'Trees for Congleton' Group .