



****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY UNVEILS URBAN GREENING PROJECT IN TOWER HAMLETS

Saturday 23rd October 2021

Furze Green community planting will create a beautiful space for residents to enjoy

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) will unveil its first urban greening project at Furze Green in Tower Hamlets – an area which has high socioeconomic deprivation and one of the lowest tree canopy cover densities in London – on Saturday 23rd October.

The QGC is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 by inviting people from across the United Kingdom to **"Plant a Tree for the Jubilee"**.

Working in partnership with Trees for Cities, the QGC will bring together the local community to transform the Furze Green landscape into a leafy oasis. A canopy will form through the planting of 17 magnificent Jubilee trees to connect the existing green space and increase the area's biodiversity, while also creating a special meeting place for people to gather. As the trees mature, they will create shady, tranquil areas for residents to enjoy.

The environmental and social impact of this project will be significant. The day will demonstrate the galvanising effect of urban tree planting, and offer a celebration of this thriving London Borough, bringing together community leaders and diverse groups of all ages, faiths and beliefs from across Tower Hamlets.

Bromley South Ward, in which Furze Green is located, has one of the lowest canopy cover densities in London at 12.53% - in comparison to the highest London Borough, Barnet at 27.1%, and 21.87% for the city overall. The imminent construction of a new primary school, two new housing schemes, and the extension of a nearby secondary school makes the need for green space even more urgent.

Aside from the aesthetic enhancement, trees can significantly improve our physical environment through filtering poor air, providing shade and thermal comfort, supporting the management of localised flooding, and increasing biodiversity by creating habitats for wildlife.

Furthermore, trees bring social benefits by increasing people's connection with nature, enhancing local environments for leisure activities, and improving health and wellbeing. The importance of access to green space, particularly for physical and mental health, has been highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to Furze Green, the QGC and Trees for Cities are working together to deliver community led urban greening projects in all four nations of the UK, targeting areas of

greatest social and environmental need. Further details will be announced in coming months.

The Jubilee trees planted at Furze Green will be added to the QGC Map, which will create a digital record of the green canopy of tree planting projects across the country.

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/>

Background

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to **"Plant a Tree for the Jubilee"**.

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees during the official planting season between October to March. Tree planting will commence again in October 2022, through to the end of the Jubilee year.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage tree planting to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, *The Queen's Green Canopy* will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

By inviting everyone to plant considerable numbers of new trees throughout the country, the QGC seeks to highlight the significant value of trees and woodlands as nature's simple but highly effective way to clean the air we breathe, slow the impact of climate change, create important wildlife habitats and improve our general health and wellbeing.

- Throughout Her reign, The Queen has planted more than 1,500 trees all over the world and has spoken alongside Sir David Attenborough of the importance of trees in the Earth's future.
- The QGC is a voluntary and inclusive initiative which is open to participation by everyone in the UK.
- The QGC is a symbolic gift which involves the voluntary dedication of forests and woodland – there is no land/title transfer.
- The QGC is a not-for-profit initiative, which has not received Government funding.

Further information about the QGC is available: www.queensgreencanopy.org

QGC key dates

1st NOVEMBER – COP26

As the host of COP26, the UK is leading by example as it brings world leaders together for key climate talks to be held in Glasgow. At the time of the Summit, people all over the nation will be playing their part to enhance the environment by planting trees to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

27th November - National Tree Week

The QGC is working with our partners to generate activities to mark National Tree Week, the UK's largest annual tree celebration.

The Queen's Green Canopy Partners

Collaboration is central to the QGC. We are proud to work with our partners **Cool Earth, The Royal Horticultural Society, The Woodland Trust, Trees for Cities, The Forest Canopy Foundation and DEFRA, The Tree Council and The Conservation Volunteers.**

The Queen's Green Canopy – Platinum Supporters

The QGC is grateful to be working with a select group of Platinum Supporters: **Royal Mail Group, Coutts, John Lewis & Partners, Waitrose & Partners, Rentokil Initial, Coupa, Regatta and Craghoppers, Bridgepoint, Howdens, Johnnie Walker, McDonald's UK & Ireland.**

We are also pleased to be working with **Bags of Ethics by Supreme Creations as an Official Supporter.**

The Queen's Green Canopy – QGC Friends Network

A diverse collection of groups located across the UK, our Friends Network is supporting the QGC, from planting trees to helping inspire the nation to get involved.

Capel Manor College	National Association of Civic Officers (NACO)
Country Land & Business Association (CLA)	National Farmers Union (NFU)
Clyde Climate Forest	National Trust
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	National Trust for Scotland
Earthwatch Europe	Natural England
Eden Project	Natural Resources Wales
EDT Industrial Cadets	National Farmers Union Scotland
English Heritage	Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh
Forestry and Land Scotland	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Forestry Commission	Royal Forestry Society
Green Action Trust	Royal Scottish Forestry Society
Historic Houses	Scottish Forestry
Horticultural Trades Association (HTA)	

Scottish Land & Estates
SUGi
The Crown Estate
Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

The National Forest
The Royal Parks
The Wildlife Trusts
Royal Warrant Holders Association

QGC social media channels

Instagram: @queensgreencanopy / @treesforcities

Twitter: @QGCanopy / @treesforcities

Facebook: @queensgreencanopy / @treesforcities

LinkedIn: @queensgreencanopy / @treesforcities

Hashtags: #queensgreencanopy #plantatreeforthejubilee #jubileetree

Trees for Cities

Trees for Cities is the only UK charity working at a national and international scale to improve lives by planting trees in cities. Trees for Cities gets stuck in with local communities to cultivate lasting change in their neighbourhoods – whether it's revitalising forgotten spaces, creating healthier environments or getting people excited about growing, foraging and eating healthy food.

Further information about Trees for Cities is available www.treesforcities.org

Notes to Editors

Members of the media are invited to attend the community planting day, with tree planting taking place on Furze Green between 1000 and 1500.

A group photograph with all participants from the community will take place at 1200.

Please contact Marnie Gaffney at The Queen's Green Canopy for further information.

Media Contact

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