



****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

NIGEL OWENS CELEBRATES CARDIFF AS A QGC "CHAMPION CITY" AHEAD OF SIX NATIONS

Saturday 12th February 2022

With all eyes on Cardiff ahead of the Six Nations, The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is proud to have the support of QGC Ambassador Nigel Owens as Cardiff is unveiled as the latest QGC "Champion City" through an urban greening project on Saturday, 12th February.

Working in partnership with Trees for Cities and Cardiff City Council, the QGC will bring together members of the local community to plant 1,200 Jubilee trees at Tremorfa Park in the ward of Splott, one of Cardiff's most deprived areas with low tree canopy cover of 7.8% - well below the average of 18.9 % across the city.

The trees will contribute to Cardiff Council's Coed Caerdydd initiative which aims to increase the city's tree canopy cover to 25% by 2030, by planting 839 hectares of new trees.

The QGC's "Champion Cities" programme has been launched to celebrate some of the nation's outstanding cities which have trees as a central part of their plans for green space.

QGC Ambassador Nigel Owens MBE, said: *"This weekend, tens of thousands of people will come together at Cardiff Stadium to witness an epic competition made possible when a simple green space gets transformed into a world stage.*

Some of the most thrilling and memorable moments of my life have occurred in this environment – in the middle of two teams locked in fierce battle, with the crowd hanging on every kick and tackle.

A spiritual home for many, the pleasure of being part of a game hosted on a simple green field is immense. In my work and on my farm, I am fortunate to benefit from the calming influence of trees and nature, which always offer a welcome place to reflect on the important things in life.

On this Six Nations weekend, I am proud to be an Ambassador for The Queen's Green Canopy who are hosting a special Jubilee tree planting event to celebrate Cardiff as a QGC "Champion City". I would like to wish everyone well and can't wait to see the result of your efforts!"

David Elliott, Chief Executive of Trees for Cities, said: *"We are delighted to be partnering with The Queens Green Canopy and Cardiff City Council to bring the multiple benefits of urban trees to local communities in Cardiff. We look forward to working alongside local residents who are getting 'stuck in' to help the largest city in Wales reach its city-wide target of 25% canopy cover over the next ten years!"*

Through the partnership, we are encouraging local people to come together to plant a tree for the Jubilee as a legacy to Her Majesty's service to the nation, while also delivering urban greening as part of Cardiff's Coed Caerdydd initiative to make Cardiff a greener and healthier place to live!"

Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, Cllr Peter Bradbury, said: *"I'm delighted that Cardiff has been successful in achieving Champion City status under The Queen's Green Canopy. It's a brilliant recognition of what we've achieved over the past few years and our future green plans for the city."*

Volunteers play a crucial part in the success of any event like this, and I'd like to thank everyone for their huge contribution. We've come to rely on our parks and green spaces over the past few years, and it's very clear how important our outdoor spaces are."

These new trees in Splott will bring massive benefits to residents - boosting biodiversity, improving air quality and having a positive effect on health and well-being."

Background

Cardiff's Coed Caerdydd programme

- Tree canopy covers around 2,658 hectares in Cardiff
- In addition, the council owns 869 hectares of woodland
- The city council owns around 1.4 million individual trees. This includes trees in parks and open spaces, on highway verges, on housing estates, within the grounds of schools, and around community facilities
- Cardiff Council will plant 839 hectares of new trees by 2030
- The council plants more than one replacement tree for any tree that is felled
- 371 new trees were planted between April 2019 and April 2021, including 65 street trees. 51 park trees and 22 housing sites. Also, 2,000 transplants were planted
- This planting season, Cardiff Council plans to plant more than 16,000 trees, supported by its tree wardens and community volunteers. This includes all trees from transplants through to semi mature trees
- During National Tree Week, Cardiff's tree wardens, environmental volunteers and corporate groups helped to plant over 400 small trees at Celtic Park, Whitchurch; Kitchener Gardens, Riverside and Parc Y Pentre, Rhiwbina
- Cardiff Council's One Planet Strategy includes an aim to increase tree canopy from 18.9% to 25% by 2030. In order to do this, Cardiff Council have established a long-term tree planting programme for the city called Coed Caerdydd. Find out more about Coed Caerdydd here: www.outdoorcardiff.com/biodiversity/coed-caerdydd

The Queen's Green Canopy and Trees for Cities

This project is being delivered in partnership with Trees for Cities, a UK charity working at a national and international scale to improve lives by planting trees in cities. The QGC and Trees for Cities are working in partnership to deliver community led urban greening projects in all four nations of the UK as part of the Platinum Jubilee year. Targeting areas of greatest social and environmental need, the partnership aims to bring diverse communities of all ages, faiths and beliefs together to actively improve local environments, increase biodiversity and beautify communal spaces.

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

Background – The Queen's Green Canopy

As part of its work to highlight urban greening initiatives, The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) invited cities from across the United Kingdom to apply for "Champion City" status. The initiative seeks to celebrate UK cities which have trees and woodlands as a central part of their plans for green spaces, for example in the form of a dynamic green recovery plan or green city charter, as well as community-oriented environmental projects.

Other UK cities which have been awarded QGC "Champion" status so far include **Aberdeen, Belfast, Birmingham, Chester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greater London, Greater Manchester, Leicester, Newcastle, Preston, Swansea, Southampton, Worcester and York.**

The Queen's Green Canopy is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, which invites people from across the UK 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

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, The Conservation Volunteers and Community Forest Trust.**

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	Field Studies Council
Country Land & Business Association (CLA)	Forestry and Land Scotland
Clyde Climate Forest	Forestry Commission
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	Green Action Trust
Community Woodlands Association (CWA)	HighGround
DAERA NI	Historic Houses
Earthwatch Europe	Horticultural Trades Association (HTA)
Eden Project	National Association of Civic Officers (NACO)
EDT Industrial Cadets	National Farmers Union (NFU)
English Heritage	

National Trust
National Trust for Scotland
Natural England
Natural Resources Wales
National Farmers Union Scotland
Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Royal Forestry Society
Royal Scottish Forestry Society
Royal Warrant Holders Association
Scotland Finest Woods Awards

Scottish Forestry
Scottish Land & Estates
SUGi
The Crown Estate
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
The National Forest
The Royal Parks
The Wildlife Trust
Ulster Farmers' Union
Welsh Government

QGC social media channels

Instagram: @queensgreencanopy

Twitter: @QGCcanopy

Facebook: @queensgreencanopy

LinkedIn: @queensgreencanopy

Hashtags: #queensgreencanopy #plantatreeforthejubilee #jubileetree

Notes to Editors

Members of the media are invited to attend the tree planting event between 1030 and 1130. Please contact Christopher Owens at Trees for Cities to register interest:

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