



The Queen is encouraging communities and individuals to mark her Platinum Jubilee by planting trees, to be known as the Queen's Green Canopy. The Woodland Trust is making three million saplings available, free of charge.

This is a proposal to create a Platinum Jubilee Avenue by planting new trees alongside those already growing around three sides of Ettington Community Centre, as the next phase of the Greener Ettington project. One or two trees could be positioned to screen the view of the MUGA and youth areas from the main hall of the community centre.



An informal mown pathway, weaving between the trees, would provide villagers with an additional way to enjoy the recreation ground. Appropriate flowers such as snowdrops and primroses could be planted or sown around the base of the trees to add to villagers' enjoyment and provide nectar for bees and other pollinating insects.

Thought would have to be given to the most appropriate species for the local conditions, future growth, and the best positioning. The idea would be to fill in gaps and create a sense of a double row of unevenly placed trees. Ideally, the new additions would provide spring blossom or attractive autumn colour, and complement the existing trees.

At this stage, the Greener Ettington team seeks parish council support for the project, pending further research, which would include contacting the district council's tree officer(s) for advice.

Community support and landowner consent are required under the Woodland Trust scheme.

Applications for free trees re-opened on 4 April 2022, on a first-come, first-served basis, to be delivered in November. The trust's packs of small saplings offer the best prospects for future growth. Community groups can apply for various packs of trees: the Copse pack is made up to rowan, silver birch and wild cherry – ten of each. Larger packs include hazel, crab apple, downy birch, hawthorn, goat willow, grey willow, and dog rose. It may be that trees can be planted elsewhere in the village – they must be on land that is accessible by the public.

It might be felt that more established trees would have a better chance of surviving the first few years because of the risk of vandalism or accidental damage, but this would involve a cost.

The National Trust is also encouraging the planting of blossom trees across the country, and so the proposal also includes the planting of two or three new wild cherry trees – or a compatible blossoming species – by the hedge next to the children's play area. These would fill in the gap in the existing line of wild cherries along the Rogers Lane frontage of the recreation ground, and add to the spectacular display of blossom we enjoy each year. There is also an opportunity to plant a line of fruit trees along the southern side of the access road to the community centre. These may require funding.

Residents of Fulready might also choose to apply for saplings.

The council is asked to consider the idea and suggest ways to take it forward in partnership with Greener Ettington.

Details of the Queen's Green Canopy, calling for planting of avenues, copses and individual trees, are here: <https://queensgreencanopy.org/>

Information on the Woodland Trust's free trees scheme is here: <https://queensgreencanopy.org/get-involved/communities-and-groups/>

