

# REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

## KING EDWARD VII CORONATION TREE PLAQUE



**Report Reference** EN-21-03  
**Meeting Date** 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
**Agenda Item** 12  
**Prepared by** Town Clerk

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

This item was discussed by the Environment working group in May. No indicative vote was taken and the discussion was inconclusive. It is therefore tabled again for the committee to give formal consideration to.

#### 1.2 BACKGROUND

In 1902, the Knutsford Urban District Council planted a tree on Knutsford Heath to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII. The tree and original plaque were replaced in 1951 as part of the Festival of Britain. The original plaque is deposited with Knutsford Heritage Centre.

In the subsequent seventy years, the oak tree has grown over the plaque (see photo below). Advice was sought from the council's arboriculturist as to whether the existing plaque could be revealed but they advised *"to attempt to remove the plaque completely intact would be detrimental to the health of the tree. A large wound would leave the tree open to infection and also lessen its efficiency to photosynthesize if the internal processes are affected. I would recommend having a replica plaque made and hopefully not screwed to the trunk of the tree. I would cut away the section of the plaque that is visible with a hand grinder and leave the bark to cover the area."*



Options for a new tree plaque have been investigated and discussed with Friends of the Heath. It is proposed that the recommendations of the arboriculturist are followed and that a cast aluminium (approx. 300mm x 194mm) ground mounted sign be installed at the base of the tree.

Friends of the Heath suggested that the council crest be included on the sign. The cost of the sign

would be in the region of £450 and Friends of the Heath have agreed to contribute towards this. The sign would feature the original wording but omit the 'replaced – festival of Britain 1951'

Permission would be required from the Tatton Estate, as owners of the Heath and this has been requested.

### **1.3 DISCUSSION AT WORKING GROUP**

The discussion at the working group meeting raised the following points/considerations:

- The suggestion to install a new plaque for legibility but leave the existing plaque for heritage purposes
- That the plaque should be retained as a part of the heritage/character of the town

### **2.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED**

Subject to consent from the landowner, the committee should give consideration to the replacement/addition of the plaque.