

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

QUEEN ELIZABETH II CORONATION TREE PLAQUE

Report Reference ET-23-05
Meeting Date 24th July 2023
Agenda Item 11
Prepared by Town Clerk



1.0 BACKGROUND

As part of the preparations for marking the coronation of HM King Charles III, local historians undertook research on how Knutsford had celebrated coronations in the past and found that an oak tree had been planted on the Heath to mark the coronations of all monarchs since 1902.

In 2022, the council and Friends of the Heath funded a replacement plaque for the King Edward VII tree as the existing plaque is being 'eaten' by the tree. The location of the tree for King George V is unknown but may have been removed, the tree planted for King George VI was to the rear of the Conservative Club and appears to have died. Friends of the Heath and the researchers re-discovered the tree planted for Queen Elizabeth II and Friends of the Heath is looking to clear around the tree to reveal it. If a plaque was placed with the tree, it is no longer present. The tree was planted on Friday 6th June 1953 by chairman of the Urban District Council.

2.0 PROPOSAL

It is suggested the committee considers the installation of a new plaque at the tree. For the King Edward VII tree, a cast aluminium plaque was installed, for the new tree for HM King Charles III a standard brass tree plaque was installed.

The cost for a cast plaque would be £512. The cost for a brass plaque would be £140. The cast plaque would be larger and include the council's armorial bearings. Friends of the Heath may be willing to contribute towards the cost as they did for the plaque at the King Edward VII tree.

The wording of the plaque would mirror that used for the Kings' trees e.g.:

This oak tree was planted in the name of the town of Knutsford on the day appointed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for the ceremony of her coronation in Westminster Abbey.

Alfred J Hart
Chairman Knutsford Urban District Council
June 6th 1953

3.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The committee should consider if it wishes to provide a new plaque for the tree.