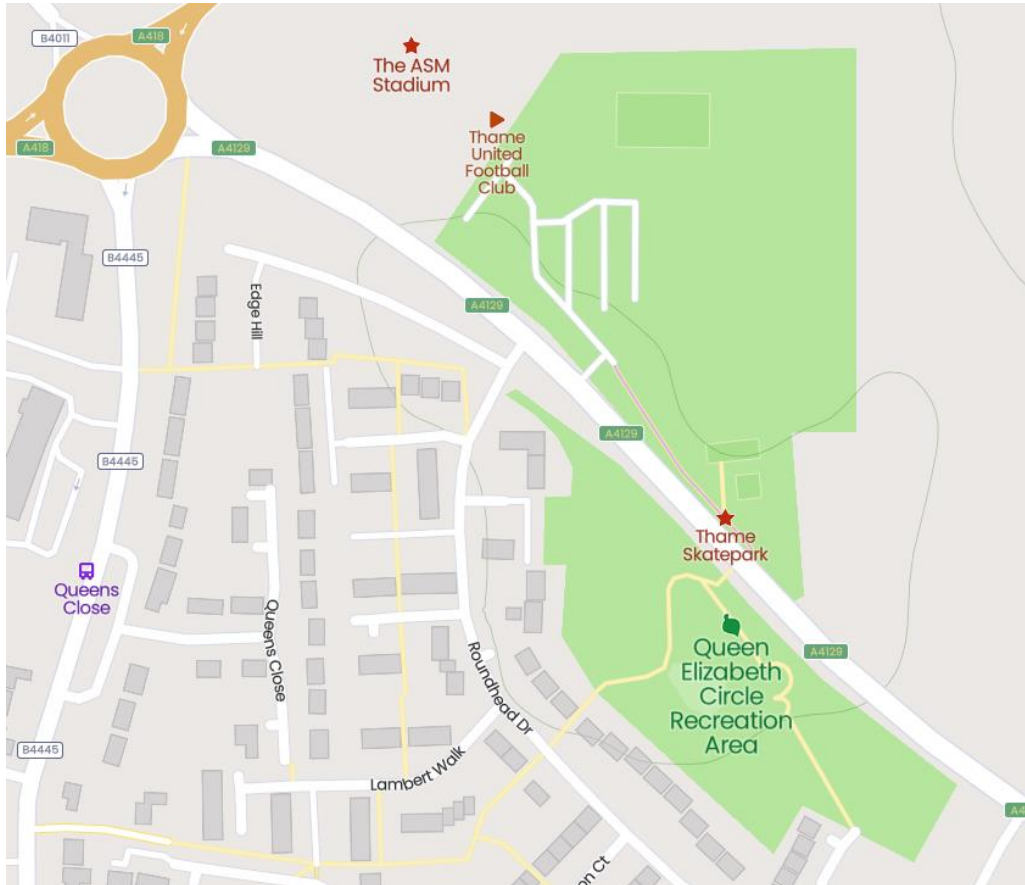


THAME GREEN LIVING

QUEEN ELIZABETH CIRCLE – Summary proposals for Thame Town Council - July 2021

Please note: TGL needs to have TTC approval for this scheme, subject to ongoing consultation with the Asset Manager, to press ahead with an application to Woodland Trust.



Where is it?

The QE Circle Recreation Area lies south-west of Tythrop Way – opposite the skatepark. The current proposal relates to the ‘top’ north-west corner of the area, where a section of open ground lies between a hilly mound and a row of garages plus the rear of some gardens.

What is the current position?

The area appears very little used. The mayor’s tree, an acer drummondii, has just been planted in the area in anticipation of our proposed scheme.

What is proposed?

A small memorial grove of trees set inside a low hedge (*see artist’s ‘drone view’ impression over.*) This is designed as a place where people can come, relax and remember loved ones, including those lost to Covid. The hedge would be a delineation to give a sense of a special space although people would remain fully visible. There is further space to the south to expand the area if it proves popular.



Why – and why now?

The grove will enliven a dull open area, providing further tree and plant cover for amenity and carbon capture. It will provide a peaceful space for people to pause and remember others. It is proposed to link the exercise to the Queen's Jubilee and the Queen's Green Canopy project.¹

A range of local organisations will be

invited to participate in the project. Individuals and organisations will be encouraged to adopt a tree. Already several people have indicated a wish to donate a tree in memory of others.

How will this be paid for?

Many people appear ready to donate a tree with a scheme by which such gifts can be recorded. Commemorative plaques similar to the Princess Diana memorial tree in Webster Close may be suitable. Alternatively trees could be numbered and a 'memorial book' kept at the Town Hall, either physically or electronically. A small information board would give the outlines. Other planting would be by arrangement with 21st Century Thame and/or through grants, such as the Woodland Trust trees communities scheme.

When will this happen? – We anticipate some initial planting later this year with the major planting to coincide with the Jubilee next year, 2022.

Who will maintain it?

As with other projects we'd envisage a group, such as 'Friends of QE Circle', to help take the project forward and act as a support group. Some periodic hedge cutting and tree pruning is likely to be required.

Thame Green Living (ChB/CoB)

14 July 2021



¹ 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 from October, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.