



Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Feature

Working Party meeting Notes - 6 January 2022

Present:

Cllr Geoff Blunden

Cllr Keith Craze

Cllr Christine Ward

Graham Flexman, Town Clerk

Joanna Hayward, Comms Officer

Cllr David Hawkins

Cllr Dean Samber

Cllr Valya Schooling

Mark Jeffries, Estates Manager

Overview

In early December the Town Clerk sent a letter requesting feedback and suggestions from our community on their ideas for a permanent commemorative feature to honour the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

The letter was sent out to various community contacts including schools, youth groups, sports groups, local charities, and care homes. The letter was also shared on social media, website, NMRA website, and advertised in the NM A&T, as well as displayed on our noticeboards.

This is the summary of the various suggestions received.

Recreation Ground

- *Nice gardens with seats and a centrepiece. With hedge or fence around.*
- *Gateway arch to the Recreation Ground*
- *Permanent light installation complementing the Gateway*
- *Rose Garden and additional long border*

Ballard Lake/Water Meadows

- *Install a fountain*
- *Install a wheelchair friendly boardwalk*

Town Centre

- *Sculpture/water feature*
- *A pedestrian area and one-way system*

Other ideas

- *Supporting school allotments/more allotments/growing initiatives*
- *Invest in No.1 New Milton Heritage Centre*
- *Make the water tower accessible to the public*
- *Make an exhibition site/art gallery*
- *Invest in vandal proof benches/huts at the community garden*
- *Name the green routes "Platinum Queensway"*
- *Redesignating one of the two commemorative clocks in the town*
- *Planting of a series of trees*
- *A community event raising funds for community/charity groups*

The working party discussed each of the above suggestions:

1. Noting the idea about a Rose Garden - this was already a project in progress to commemorate the Centenary Anniversary in 2020 of the Recreation Ground. However, the Platinum Jubilee could also be referenced by an alteration/addition to the pergola structure, and roses planted in honour of the Queen.
2. Gateway Arch to complement the Golden Jubilee wall – was considered as deliverable for this Jubilee year, but location of the gateway arch was questioned.
3. Referring to the suggestions at Ballard Lake, it was felt that these could be deliverable within an Amenities Committee remit rather than as meaningful Jubilee features.
4. The town centre pedestrianisation and one-way system is not considered an affordable nor deliverable project for the Platinum Jubilee this year.
5. A sculpture/water feature within the town centre was discussed with interest, with reference made to previous plans from 2008. The location of such a feature should be town central and with limited space available on our pavements, the area of Mallard Court was suggested. It should include sensory features to ensure all abilities are able to enjoy it.
6. The planting of trees was noted as we have launched our Plant a Tree initiative again this year and will also be partnering with Ballard School for the Queen's Green Canopy.
7. The other ideas were also discussed but not considered suitable as meaningful Jubilee features.

Action Points:

1. Graham will share information with the group about the 2008 sculpture.
2. Mark to produce costings for four additional commemorative benches.
3. Mark to look at design and costings for addition/amendment to rose pergola.
4. Report with proposed budget to be ready for Amenities Committee on 17 January 2022.