

Report of Ranger Service Manager

Subject: '70 Trees for 70 Years' commemorative tree planting scheme.

Purpose of this report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the Authority's tree planting scheme to commemorate 70 years since the National Park's designation.

Background

2. In November 2021 the National Park Authority approved a proposal put forward by Cllr Reg Owens to commemorate our original designation 70 years ago by planting 70 trees in each National Park community.

Progress to date

3. Our External Funding Manager identified two sources of external support for the tree planting scheme: the Greener Camping Club who are able to supply some of the trees and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Trust who have allocated some funding already with further grant applications to come.
4. Between February and April 2022, the Ranger Service made contact with all 49 Community Councils whose area lies within or partially within the Park boundary offering the opportunity to participate in the scheme, with Rangers available to offer advice over locations, species, planting and aftercare. Trees can be planted in any location provided that the landowner is prepared to allow them to grow to maturity, be that public or private land, in open spaces, hedgerows or gardens.
5. To date, 22 Community Councils have responded positively and of these, 14 have tree planting projects planned for this autumn/winter. These will include small orchards, hedgerows, amenity trees around playing fields and community spaces and trees to provide screening.
6. Eight Community Councils are still seeking ideas from community groups and residents. We expect to work with these communities to develop schemes over the autumn.

Further work

7. The mixed take-up rate so far means that the Ranger Service has the capacity to deliver all the identified projects this winter. The team will follow up those

Community Councils who have not yet responded and will also contact community organisations in those areas with a view to developing projects for the 2023 tree planting season.

8. We are working with the National Park Trust to create some publicity for the tree planting projects this year which may lead to further take up by communities.

Risk considerations

9. Aftercare of trees is an important consideration – some losses of newly planted trees are to be expected but we will work with the communities and our volunteers to ensure that the trees are checked, weeded and if possible watered, to ensure that they become well established.

Financial considerations

10. The scheme does not create any additional long term financial obligations.

Welsh Language considerations

11. The publicity material will be prepared in accordance with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards Regulations (No.1) 2015. The Rangers offer a bilingual service to communities.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to note this report and are cordially invited to join the Rangers at a tree planting event this winter.

(For further information please contact Libby Taylor Ranger Service Manager extension 4857)