

**CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC  
PROSPERITY COMMITTEE – 27 SEPTEMBER 2019**

|  |  |   |                             |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>Subject:</b>  | <b>Sherwood Forest</b>   |   |                             |
| <b>Presenting authority / representative):</b>   | Bassetlaw District Council   |   |                             |
| <b>Report author and contact details:</b>  | Neil Taylor, Chief Executive<br><a href="mailto:Neil.Taylor@bassetlaw.gov.uk">Neil.Taylor@bassetlaw.gov.uk</a> |   |                             |
| <b>Key Decision</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No  | <b>Subject to call-in</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <b>Value of decision:</b> £0   | <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital  |   |                             |
| <b>Authorities affected:</b> All   | <b>Date of consultation with relevant authorities:</b> N/A   |   |                             |
| <b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/constituent authorities):</b>   |  |   |                             |
| <p>Bassetlaw District Council is aiming to plant 400 ‘Legacy Oaks’ across the district to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the journey of the Mayflower Pilgrims to America. It is now seeking to extend this project throughout the County.</p> <p>Officers have met to discuss co-ordinating each council’s efforts under one umbrella initiative. Members are now asked to collectively support this initiative.</p> |  |   |                             |
| <b>Exempt information:</b>   |  |   |                             |
| None   |  |   |                             |
| <b>Recommendation(s):</b>  |  |   |                             |
| It is recommended that the Committee agrees to support the Mayflower Legacy project.   |  |   |                             |

**1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 The planting of legacy oaks, grown from acorns from Sherwood Forest to commemorate the Pilgrims will provide a legacy for hundreds of years to come.

**2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

- 2.1 The background is set out in Appendix A.

**3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To not support this project. This would reduce the impact of this legacy project.

**4 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT**

None

## Appendix A

### Sherwood Forest

The name 'Sherwood' was first recorded in 958AD when it was called Sciryuda, meaning 'the woodland belonging to the shire'.

It became a Royal hunting forest after the Norman invasion of 1066, and was popular with many Norman kings. 'Forest' was a legal term, and meant an area subject to special Royal laws designed to protect the valuable resources of timber and game within its boundaries.

Medieval Sherwood comprised birch and oak woodland, interspersed with large areas of open sandy heath and rough grassland. Sherwood also contained three Royal deer parks, near Nottingham Castle, Bestwood and Pittance (Clipstone) Park.

Medieval woodland was a productive resource that was carefully managed. Landowners got the most value from their woodland by using techniques such as 'coppicing' and 'pollarding' to produce poles and laths for building. 'Underwood' (twigs, brushwood etc) was collected and sold for domestic fuel, and the woodland supported several industries, such as charcoal burning and the stripping of oak bark to use in tanning leather. The autumn crop of acorns produced in oak woodland was used to feed pigs. Cattle, sheep and deer grazed 'wood pasture'.

By the 18th century, large areas of Crown land in Sherwood had been sold or gifted to nobles and court favourites who created the country estates later to be known as the 'Dukeries' of Thoresby, Rufford, Welbeck, Wollaton and Newstead.

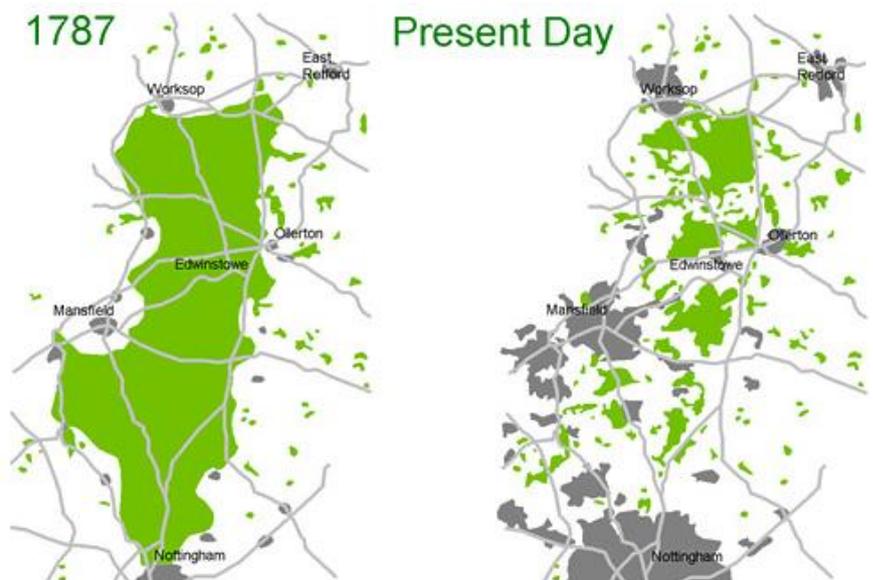
Sherwood was a valuable resource for the grazing of animals, agriculture and the growth and selling of timber for buildings, furniture, and the ships of the British navy. Birch was used as domestic fuel, and even oak bark was used in the leather tanning industry.

By 1830, the last of the Crown's land in Sherwood, had been sold.

During Victorian times, Sherwood became a tourist attraction, with interest in the ancient 'greenwood' fuelled by romantic novels set in medieval times, such as Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* centred around the Major Oak.

The industrialisation of the 19th and 20th centuries brought major impact on Sherwood through coal mining, roads and railways, factories, farming, industrial use and the development of country estate deer parks.

During the world wars, areas of the forest were requisitioned for military camps, ammunition stores and training areas, and the national need for softwood timber changed the Nottinghamshire landscape with the introduction of extensive conifer plantations.



## **Mayflower 400 Legacy Oaks Project**

Work continues to deliver the objectives of the Sherwood Forest Regional Park, however in the meantime an opportunity has arisen to link the historical context of Sherwood Forest to the work being undertaken to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the journey of the Mayflower Pilgrims to America.

In February 2019 Bassetlaw District Council Cabinet approved a project aimed at planting a minimum of 400 oak trees grown from Sherwood acorns across the district as part of the Mayflower Legacy project.

The objective of this project is the planting of legacy oaks, grown from acorns from Sherwood Forest, across the District to commemorate the Pilgrims and provide a legacy for hundreds of years to come.

In the first instance it is proposed to work with Parish Councils, business and land owners to plant 102 trees as a tribute to the number of pilgrims that set off on the mayflower. Ultimately the aim to plant 400 Legacy Oaks across the district, but this number will be increased if suitable sites can be found.

It is also proposed that as a key statement, the Council works with partners such as the Woodland Trust to deliver a legacy woodland, which will include a number of the Legacy Oaks on the land it owns adjacent to the Chesterfield Canal on Welham Road, Retford.

Work is in hand in partnership with the Sherwood Forest Trust on the planting of the acorns and contacts have been made with a range of land owners and Parish Councils to find suitable planting sites. To date about a dozen planting sites have been proposed.

## **Conclusion**

There has been a preliminary officer meeting about extending this throughout the County to co-ordinate each council's efforts under one umbrella initiative and Members are collectively asked to support this initiative at the EPC meeting.