



AGENDA

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Bristol Tree Forum	10 th January 2011	18:00-21:00	Council House

1. Apologies and welcome (Hugh Holden) (10 minutes)
2. Minutes and matters arising (Hugh Holden) (40 minutes)
3. Election of chair and vice chair (Hugh Holden) (10 minutes)
4. National tree planting campaign and the 'Big Tree Plant' (Richard Ennion) (45 minutes) see <http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/news/2010/12/02/tree-plant>

Tea Break

5. Area green space plans and trees (Richard Fletcher - to be confirmed) (30 minutes)
6. TreeBristol - sponsorship and income generation (Clive Stevens) (30 minutes)
7. Conservation area plan for Cotham (Clive Stevens))5 minutes)
8. Biodiversity offsetting (Richard Ennion) (10 minutes)
9. Any other business
10. Date of next meeting

<i>Distribution</i>	
To:	Bristol Tree Forum
CC:	



MINUTES

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Bristol Tree Forum	10 th January 2011	18:00-21:00	Council House
Attendees			
<p>CS - Clive Stevens - Tree Champion for Bishopston, Redland and Cotham NP, HH - Hugh Holden - Bristol Civic Society (Chair), ML - Michele Lavelle- Landscape Institute, SF - Stephanie French - Tree Champion for Henleaze, Stoke Bishop and Westbury on Trym NP, VP - Vasilli Papastavrou - Bristol Street Trees, RE - Richard Ennion - BCC Natural Environment Manager, SM - Steve Micklewright (Avon Wildlife Trust), BB - Ben Barker and GM - Guy Malkerson - Greater Bedminster Partnership, BV- Cllr Bev Knott, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, RB - Richard Bland - Clifton & Hotwells Improvement Society</p>			
Apologies		CC	
<p>Russell Horsey, Lesley Alexander, Kevin Stuckey, Jon Clark, Di Robinson</p>		<p>Tree Forum Members</p>	

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>As above</p> <p>Welcome</p> <p>Cllr Bev Knott and Guy Malkerson - warm welcome to both.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising</p>	
[2 (3.2)]	<p><u>Highway build outs and tree pits</u> Highways are leading on the development of a 'quality assurance' process governing highway capital projects. Street-scene improvement opportunities that might result from programmed highway schemes (such as the inclusion of a tree in a build out) will be considered at an earlier stage in the design process. Standard design principles are also being investigated, which should prompt designers to consider issues such as trees as a matter of course. Development of the quality assurance process is at an early stage but it should be in operation relatively quickly. Russell Horsey is part of the project team working on this. The Tree Forum will be advised of progress.</p>	RH

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
[2 (3.3)]	<p><u>Revised guidance supporting planning policy NE3</u> The Bristol Tree Compensation standard has been adopted and took effect on the 1st January 2011.</p> <p>Concern has been raised that DM7 (NE3's replacement) is not yet fit for purpose. Development Management have agreed to review this policy reflecting comments received. Richard Ennion will meet with colleagues in planning and re-draft. The Forum will then be consulted again.</p>	RE
[2 (3.4)]	<p><u>Tree Canopy Cover Assessment</u> It is expected that the full results of this work will be available at the next Tree Forum meeting.</p>	RE
[2 (3.5)]	<p><u>Veteran Trees Habitat Action Plan</u> A first draft has been circulated to members of the veteran tree sub group. The draft is attached to these minutes. Any comments are invited - send to RE. The next meeting of the sub-group is 8th February 10:00 - 12:00 at 33 Colston Avenue.</p>	All
[2 (3.8)]	<p><u>Pollarding</u> RH to confirm minutes of recent meeting and sub group to progress agreed actions. HH wishes that concerns about the quality of Midland Forestry pollarding work be addressed.</p>	RH
[3]	<p><u>Barcham Award</u> The seven NP's with fewest trees (council tree cover) have been invited to request the 10 trees allocated to each area by selecting preferred planting sites from the issued tree planting opportunity maps. Deadline is 24th January with tree planting to follow where agreed.</p>	
[4]	<p><u>Tree Champions</u> Di Robinson to be invited to a future Tree Forum with agenda slot to discuss Neighbourhood Partnerships and trees.</p> <p>RE to liaise with Neighbourhood Partnership Area Coordinators with view to attending NP meetings.</p> <p>CS to prepare a paper to be circulated to the NPs asking NP to develop a tree strategy.</p> <p>BB referred to the upcoming Pride of Place award recognising good work by Neighbourhood Partnerships around the theme of biodiversity / greening / sustainability. Exhibition planned in M-Shed (Bristol Museum) in July. There is an opportunity for Tree Champions to work with NPs to submit bids for this award (via the Green Momentum Group).</p>	<p>HH</p> <p>RE</p> <p>CS</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
[5]	<u>Tree Planting Design Guide</u> A first draft has been circulated to members of the tree planting design sub group. The draft is attached to these minutes. Any comments are invited - send to RE. The next meeting of the sub-group is 2 nd February 10:00 - 12:00 at 33 Colston Avenue.	All
[6]	<u>Consultation and s211 notices (trees in a conservation area)</u> Improved scanning time allows consultation to be extended to 21-days - but the Tree Forum were advised that due to ongoing staff shortages it was preferred to leave at 14-days so avoiding occasional failure to adhere to this standard. Timeline to process a 211 Notice attached. A return to full staffing is due to be discussed with senior managers.	RE
[7]	<u>Tree Forum 'away days'</u> RH to pick up arranging a Tree Forum away day before the end of March looking at management options for trees in a public park and street trees close by.	RH
[9]	<u>AOB</u> <u>Monitoring required replacement planting for TPO felling approvals</u> A system is now in place to monitor required replacement planting and take action if not complied with.	
3.	Election of Chair and Vice Chair (Hugh Holden) Hugh Holden elected Chair Clive Stevens elected Vice Chair Positions to be re-elected within 12-months.	
4.	National tree planting campaign & the 'Big Tree Plant' (Richard Ennion) see: http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/news/2010/12/02/tree-plant RE summarised the recently launched 'Big Tree Plant' - see information on Defra web site using link as above. The Tree Forum supported the submission of a citywide bid. RE to circulate a draft project proposal detailing how a bid to this grant will be collated, who will do this, how the Tree Forum and Tree Champions will be involved etc. The working assumption is that an application will be submitted in August / September 2011.	RE

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
5.	<p>Area Green Space Plans and trees (Richard Fletcher)</p> <p>RF described how the AGSP investment plan and associated site disposals will be progressed. The Neighbourhood Partnerships will be asked to agree their investment proposals and priorities that should go forward. This consultation will take place over the next 5-6 months. Environmental sub groups will contribute to this debate, where they exist. The issue of tree planting and tree retention will form part of this wider consideration.</p> <p>RF explained that for potential site disposals any action to impose a TPO would be taken closer to the time a site was being marketed for disposal (which, for some sites, could be many years hence). Ultimately, the planning process would determine how a site would be developed including the option to retain trees or require compensatory planting if appropriate.</p> <p>The Tree Forum asked that the council, as a matter of policy, protect trees via a TPO prior to any sites disposal.</p> <p>The group discussed this and wished that any trees lost as part of site re-development or other site change be compensated by planting elsewhere. It was noted that requirements for compensatory planting was detailed in current policy NE3 as this relates to development. Otherwise, there is no requirement to compensate for the loss of trees if not associated with development and that there is no mechanism in place to do so.</p> <p>The group stated that they wished to see trees being protected reflecting their importance beyond amenity i.e. cooling and improving air quality. RE explained that the criterion by which trees can be protected is currently limited to amenity. Central government is considering powers to allow local variations which may extend to TPOs via the 'localism bill' which is proceeding through parliament.</p> <p>Concern was expressed about the consistency of the planning process in achieving positive outcomes for trees, specifically whether trees will be protected and if decided that trees should be lost these will be replaced in accordance with the guidance (the Bristol Tree Compensation Standard).</p>	

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
<p>6.</p>	<p>TreeBristol sponsorship and income generation (Clive Stevens)</p> <p>CS presented a summary of income received by TreeBristol over the past 2-years (data from TreeBristol annual reports - see www.bristol.gov.uk/treebristol and interim figures for 2010-11). CS noted that income received from private donations was limited and invited debate. Comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) TreeBristol has not attempted to contact CHIS to seek their support for tree planting; b) The current sponsorship packages are incomprehensible; c) The problem is that the council wants complete control and is not inviting residents to select species of tree that they want; d) We should actively pursue business sponsorship; e) Promotion is weak and we should learn from successful organisations such as the Woodland Trust; f) The TreeBristol steering group is not functioning well - meetings sporadic, major issues such as the above not raised, should TreeBristol and Tree Forum merge? <p>RE responded:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Community groups would be contacted directly and asked to support tree planting; ii. A tree planting design plan was now at draft stage this will consider consultation about species choice; iii. A cheaper tree planting package was being considered by planting smaller trees; iv. The TreeBristol steering group be reformed and asked to discuss these points and determine whether it wished to merge with the Tree Forum v. RE is meeting a representative of the Woodland Trust on the 18th January; vi. A business sponsorship package was due to be launched in 2011 in association with Green Capital group. <p>CS offered to sit on the TreeBristol steering Group.</p>	<p>RE</p> <p>RE</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Conservation area plan for Cotham (Clive Stevens)</p> <p>CS circulated a summary of the submission made to the Conservation Area plan for Cotham (summary attached). Key tree-related points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCAS have identified that current tree legislation is not enough to maintain the tree canopy cover in Redland and Cotham, and • RCAS have attempted a first draft definition of "important" trees. 	

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
8.	<p>Biodiversity offsetting (Richard Ennion)</p> <p>On agenda, but not discussed due to lack of time.</p> <p>Bristol City Council is looking to take part in a pilot study being run by Defra to test a biodiversity offsetting scheme. For details about biodiversity offsetting, see http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/offsetting/index.htm</p> <p>There is an opportunity, should a biodiversity offsetting scheme be established, to market habitat creation or improvement schemes that would compensate for biodiversity loss as a result of development. Woodlands may be a 'marketable habitat'. More details to follow.</p>	
9.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>None</p>	
10.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>11th April 2011 18:00 - 21:00 @ the Council House</p>	