



AGENDA

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Bristol Tree Forum	6 th September 2011	18:00 - 20:00	The Council House
<i>Apologies</i>			

1. Apologies / welcome
2. Minutes of last meeting, 4th April 2011 and matters arising
3. Election of Chair
4. Quick updates from the council
 - a) Big Tree Plant bid
 - b) New Tree Officers
 - c) Dogs and trees
 - d) The Domesday oak
5. Tree Canopy Assessment
6. TPO request at Stoke Lodge
7. Conservation Area Statements
8. BCR local tree policy
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	6 th September 2011	18:00-20:00	Council House
Attendees			
<p>RH - Russell Horsey, CS - Clive Stevens - Tree Champion for Bishopston, Redland and Cotham NP, HH - Hugh Holden - Bristol Civic Society (Chair), SF - Stephanie French - Tree Champion for Henleaze, Stoke Bishop and Westbury on Trym NP, RE - Richard Ennion - BCC Horticultural Services Manager, BB - Ben Barker and GM - Guy Malkerson - Greater Bedminster Partnership, RB - Richard Bland - Clifton & Hotwells Improvement Society, ML = Michele Lavelle, Landscape Institute, PB - Pete Bullard, St Pauls Unlimited Park Group</p>			
Apologies		CC	
<p>Cllr Lesley Alexander, Jon Clark, Vassili Papastavrou, Cllr Bev Knott, Steve Micklewright</p>		<p>Tree Forum Members</p>	

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>As above.</p> <p>New Members</p> <p>Pete Bullard returned to the Tree Forum and confirmed that he would be the Tree Champion for the Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Partnership.</p> <p>Resignation</p> <p>Gillian Fearnough, Architecture Centre.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising</p> <p>Minutes of meeting on the 10th January 2011 accepted as a true record with one amendment: 7. Community Orchard Windmill Hill, Southville</p>	
(3.1)	Josie Sadler to progress action to consider options to attach small plaques to the tree guard.	JS
(3 c)	HH has had positive communication with Triodos Bank with a view to them supporting TreeBristol - HH to advise further.	
(5)	A reduction in the relative amenity value of a tree affected by development can be a material consideration in deciding whether to grant consent but would need to take into account other factors.	

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(6)	RE to complete the 'letter' to Neighbourhood Partnerships setting out the council's approach to tree planting and tree maintenance highlighting significant plans and base line data.	RE
(7)	<p>The Tree Design Guide and Veteran Tree Action plan have been delayed. RE to complete drafts for November meeting.</p> <p>Reference was made to the proposed revisions to National Planning Policy Framework which is subject to consultation. The deadline for comments is the 17th October.</p> <p>The document itself is available at : http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1951811.pdf</p> <p>and details of the consultation is given at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/draftframeworkconsultation</p> <p>Section 169 of the draft National Planning Policy Framework, makes specific reference to veteran trees: 'planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss.'</p> <p>The document defines veteran trees as 'A tree which, because of its great age, size or condition is of exceptional value culturally, in the landscape or for wildlife'.</p> <p>A response from the Tree Forum is due to be circulated for comment and support.</p>	RE CS
3.	<p>Election of Chair Hugh Holden resigned as Chair and Clive Stevens was duly elected Chair with Hugh acting as Vice Chair.</p> <p>The group warmly thanked Hugh for the support he has given the Tree Forum and welcomed his continuing role as Vice Chair.</p>	
4.	Updates from the Council	
4.1	<p>Big Tree Plant (Bristol) bid</p> <p>A partnership bid was submitted to Defra in September hosted by the Forest of Avon Trust seeking £249k grant within a £451k project to plant 31,000 more trees across Bristol. Update: the bid has been deferred. The feedback from the Big Tree Plant is positive, but they require more details about numbers, locations and require a lower average planting cost. We will re-group and aim to re-submit in March 2012.</p> <p>A bid by a group in Montpelier in round one was rejected due to insufficient match funding. TreeBristol, through the Big Tree Plant</p>	

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	(Bristol) project (if successful), will offer assistance to the Montpelier group to realise their local ambitions for tree planting.	
4.2	<p>Tree Officers</p> <p>There have been a number of changes to the council's line up of tree officers:</p> <p>Ben Rose, Arboricultural Officer (Planning) left the council on the 6th August to concentrate on his tree consultancy business.</p> <p>Claire Harbinson, who replaces Ben in the same role, started on the 30th August. Claire will focus on Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Area tree notices and provision of an advice service to the council's Development Management (Planning) service reflecting the impact of development on existing trees. Claire will work full time (Ben worked 2½ days a week): hence this represents an increase in capacity. Claire will work with Laurence Wood in the same role working 2½ days per week.</p> <p>Mike Kiss, Arboricultural Officer (Parks) started in this new post on the 8th August. Mike will focus on parkland trees and provide much needed extra capacity to clear a backlog of tree maintenance works in parks and green spaces across the city. This post is fixed for 1-year.</p>	
4.3	<p>Dogs and Trees</p> <p>RH advised the group of the ongoing problem of damage caused to trees by dogs. We have lost some trees to this damage, especially recently de-guarded trees, and others have been weakened and likely will need to be removed at some stage. The problem is periodic, citywide and in some locations chronic, including St George's Park and Queen Square. In the first instance, damage should be reported to the police, especially if the perpetrators could be caught in the act. Otherwise, the problem should be raised at Neighbourhood Partnership meetings by Tree Champions and anyone that sees this as a priority, including discussion with the police coordinators thereby raising the profile of the problem and encouraging resources to deal with it.</p>	
4.4	<p>The Domesday Oak</p> <p>The Domesday Oak is located at Ashton Court Estate and has been recognised by the Tree Council as one of 50 great British trees. Earlier in the year one of the two cables holding the tree together snapped and a significant crack developed between the two halves of the tree. In response, a number of wooden supports were installed in an attempt to prevent total collapse. Unfortunately, this was only partly successful and a significant section of the tree has now collapsed (this became inevitable as cracks widened and new ones formed: the tree was cordoned off and the collapse was allowed to happen naturally). The remaining standing part of the tree has been pruned to reduce weight and the fallen section will be retained in situ.</p>	

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<p>5.</p>	<p>Tree Canopy Assessment</p> <p>RE appraised the group on the now completed assessment of the distribution of tree canopy across Bristol. The figure for the city (all land irrespective of ownership) is 14% tree canopy cover and the range, by ward, 8-27%. Data is held electronically and maps can be produced for any area of the city but will be made available for each Neighbourhood Partnership area. This data will help inform priorities for additional tree planting and can be combined with data on areas of higher social deprivation (as was done to inform part of the bid to the Big Tree Plant). RE will make available summary figures and maps. Details of the methodology are available.</p>	<p>RE</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>TPO request at Stoke Lodge</p> <p>This note represents an updated situation.</p> <p>At the meeting Stephanie French indicated that the NP03 Committee had submitted an appeal against the Tree Officer's delegated decision not to place Tree Preservation Orders on 13 trees in Stoke Lodge Parkland/playing fields. Richard Ennion and Russell Horsey continue to be against the application for TPOs. She asked what plans would be put in place were Cotham School to be granted a 125 year lease to continue to use the land as their playing fields.</p> <p>Richard Ennion stated that were such a lease to be considered then he would ensure that the trees remained under the control of BCC and that TPOs would thus in his opinion still not be required.</p> <p>After the meeting Stephanie discovered that the lease had already been signed (31st August 2011). She informed Richard Ennion who was unaware of the granting of the lease. Responsibility for the trees remained with the Council but the assets (i.e. the trees) were essentially transferred to the school. Given this change in status a decision was then made by Richard Ennion to make Tree Preservation Orders for those trees worthy of a TPO that are within the land included in the lease to Cotham School. There was no change to the decision not to make a TPO on those trees requested by NP03 where those trees were not within the area of the leased land.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Conservation Area Statements</p> <p>CS updated the group in terms of the relevance in terms of trees of Conservation Area Statements which are being revised.</p> <p>Bristol's 33 Conservation Areas (CA) account for 30% of Bristol's land area. In a CA land owners must notify planning if they wish to maintain or fell a tree (subject to statutory exemptions). This allows residents to comment. The Tree Officer will then inspect the tree and decide if the visual amenity makes it worthy of a TPO, they can take account of the tree's condition, resident comments and the importance of trees in the CA statement. Redland&Cotham have just</p>	

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	<p>reviewed their CA statement with BCC and strengthened the importance of trees (using the Clifton's as a basis) and described trees as making a vital contribution to the character of the area (which they do). With vigilant checking of planning notices and support to the tree Officers (via letters and the CA statement) R&C are protecting approximately 20% of their front garden trees and getting replacements planted on many occasions too. Clive Stevens is offering advice to any other groups when their CA statements come up for review.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Bishopston, Cotham and Redland NP 'tree policy'</p> <p>CS advised that BCR NP have adopted their own tree policy (attached) aiming to take tree canopy cover from 13-18% based on 1% increase in cover coming from four main land types: street, school grounds, private gardens and other categories.</p> <p>The policy identifies typical 'tree problems' such as leaves on pavements / blocking gutters. The aim being to address these problems via focussed and timely maintenance such as increased road sweeping in autumn. Discussions are ongoing with council highways officers to match resource to need.</p> <p>The policy also called on the Parks and Highways to work together to find good solutions to the problem of pavement lift by tree roots.</p>	<p>RH</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>CS advised of the success of lobbying to get more trees planted along Ashley Down Road which has seen numbers increase from 6 to 17.</p> <p>Thanks given to Clifton and Hotwells Amenity Society for providing £1,000 to allow a tree to be incorporated into a pavement 'build out' at Ambra Vale.</p> <p>Tree work in parks is currently restricted to health and safety. To clarify, tree works recently undertaken in Castle Park have included along Wine Street frontage the removal of low branches, dead wood and one tree of poor form.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Monday 21st November 2011, Council House, 18:00 - 20:00</p>	