

Attendees (31): Jacq Abraham, Cllr Lesley Alexander, Bill Ambridge, Fraser Bridgeford, Jon Clark, John Connell, Kris Dul, Richard Ennion, Guy Fishbourne, Bob Frank, Stephanie French, Joseph Glasgow, Hugh Holden, Mark Howard, Alan Jenkinson, Michele Lavelle, Mark Logan, Arnold Mayes, Cllr Glenise Morgan, Cllr Anthony Negus, Helen Phillips, Vassili Papastavrou, Wendy Pollard, Sheila Preece, Jim Smith, Asst Mayor Daniella Radice, Alan Stealey, Clive Stevens (Chair, stepped down at end), Kevin Stuckey, John Tarlton, Zanna Wheeler,

### Items:

1) Cabot and Clifton NP using Democratree software to enable the public to suggest locations for new and replacement trees within the Neighbourhood (NP). This software will be available on a website and SmartPhone App. Suggestions from the public will properly logged, compared with the Metrobus planting plans, Council mapping and then considered by the NP. There is currently £150k of S106 from developers in mitigation of trees they have felled.

- anyone interested to contact the project manager Fraser Bridgeford (via the TreeForum)
- software still being developed, needs to be tested.
- decision will be based on amenity vs cost of tree and pit (how is amenity to be calculated?). Priority will be for street trees and ideally ones that can be allowed to grow large.
- Democratree needs then to be publicised, debugged (in that order?), data collected and managed, services searches, consideration by NP and feedback to participants (successful or otherwise) and eventually trees planted by 2019. Could be good idea for all Bristol.
- it was revealed that the Council don't plan to replace the trees they felled on the Portway so as to maintain an open view of the mud. (Clive's comment: Apparently this decision was taken a long time ago, maybe even the 1990's. The understanding of the value of trees has increased massively since then. Perhaps it is time to revisit this decision? I will raise this with the Chair of the appropriate NP who happens to be Fraser Bridgeford).

2) Michele Lavelle (of 4DLD) presented their idea in collaboration with University of Bristol to initiate 'The Arboretum of Bristol' by mapping existing trees to demonstrate their diversity. The University of Bristol was used as an example of a landowner which already grows a wide variety of tree species and varieties thereof through which walks could be established (currently they have 126 tree species and of those 60 varieties of Oaks growing on their grounds in Bristol).

- apply for a BGC grant of £10k to do this in Feb. Details from [Michele@4dld.com](mailto:Michele@4dld.com) or [Alan.Stealey@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Alan.Stealey@bristol.ac.uk) Note: I have been told that grants for Nature topics have been fully allocated so funding will need to come from elsewhere
- involve other estate (land owners) e.g. Zoos, Church Estate, Council...
- split the grant application into 2 parts. The first to make the database available to the public (onto pinpoint) and the second to create some historic walks. (Coordinate with Richard Bland who is doing Bristol's top 200 trees and needs to consult on these).

- If the city wide database identifies missing desirable species or subspecies additional planting may have to be made, to do this may require a level of flexibility in the planning formula (BTRS). Separately the University were asked if they were going to keep to the BTRS. This running sore must be resolved and it needs Guy Fishbourne to get involved.

3) 60 second news – attached as Appendix 1 (page 3) – good news from Stoke Bishop/Henleaze, well done Stephanie. Additionally big tree plant/PiPs/Mayor event on Feb 5<sup>th</sup> at Eastville Park – 1pm – do go if possible. Richard Ennion to respond on S106 wording (App1 item 9 iv)

4) Council Matters. Richard Ennion is Environmental Improvement officer and covers PiPs, TreeBristol and planting. Guy Fishbourne is Contracts Manager and covers tree management, felling and planning (Organisation Chart and plan of which tree officer covers which ward is attached, Appendix 2).

- Regarding PiPs filled 3 part roles Ollie, Sylvia (Landscapes) and Theresa (Projects). Now up to full compliment. Jobs run until March 2016, PiPs ends. Need to discuss future when S106 and private sponsorship take over. (Also consider working with RHS school scheme).

- PiPs targets are (and we are halfway through): 6,000 planted or imminent, 25,000 woodland / hedgerow, 2,000 specimen trees & 5,000 free trees for children to take home.

- regarding Senior Tree Officer (Claire's replacement). Not filled, getting regraded and will re-advertise. Also getting an Assistant Arb Officer. Lots of questions piling up on planning but no one to discuss with? Guy? (see item 2 as well).

5) Chair and Committee. Clive stepped down as Chair. We voted to have a Committee with names currently: John Tarlton, Vassili Papastavrou, Jim Smith, Richard Bland and Simon Randolph. Additionally Joseph Glasgow and Hugh Holden said they would join too (so new members to be voted on in April). Other Committee members (others have expressed an interest please confirm).

Two tasks for the Committee:

- to review the Constitution given the requirements going forward (sponsorship, leader..) and consider allowing Chair or new leadership to last more than 3 years (electable annually)

- to clearly allocate and share out the tasks which were undertaken by the Chair

On the basis of the above the voting membership (representatives of community groups voted 11 for 0 against and 0 abstentions).

Action – The “unchair” to organise the Committee to look at the above 2 tasks. In the meantime the “unchair” will keep things ticking over.

Finally we would like to thank Assistant Mayor Daniella Radice for attending. She commented that she would look into Trees as Assets and Sponsorship (after PiPs is over).

Meeting finished at 19.59

Minutes Signed Off.....Clive Stevens (Now The “Ex Chair”)

## Appendix 1 – 60 second news:

NP3 (Stoke Bishop, Westbury on Trym and Henleaze). Tree News. Having made Trees a named priority and then co-opted the Tree Champion onto the Partnership, the Partnership has agreed to spend some devolved funds on:

- 1) 3 further tree replacements from s106 funds in addition to the 8 funded in similar fashion in October. 2 will be street trees and 1 is in the front car park of the Adult Learning Centre at Stoke Lodge
- 2) A grant has been made from devolved funds for a TPO tree replacement where a diseased tree was removed at Stoke Lodge, but could have been doomed by a new entrance-way to a playground otherwise. The Partnership feels it owes the tree back to Stoke Lodge parkland and so a Cedar of Lebanon to be planted soon.
- 3) Further s106 money is to be spent on 5 trees to replace lost street trees along Westbury Park, Henleaze. This may wake up the rather dilatory species selection considerations for the Downs, which seem to be taking years to resolve.
- 4) The Tree Champion and Henleaze Councillors, working with Westbury Park Residents' Association, were successful in getting a Green Capital grant for removing two tree stumps in Devonshire Road and then hopefully putting in two new modern tree pits where we think none have existed, and then two new trees. Devonshire Road has become a problem road and is not unique in Bristol. The trees are large and not in pits. The pavements are narrow and full of services. We shall see what we can do and maybe have two new trees. At least we shall find out what the problems are/could be for the rest of Devonshire Road and maybe other streets in Bristol, mindful that it is difficult to extrapolate circumstances.
- 5) The Environment Group encouraged BCC to find two trees from its stock to replace felled boundary TPO trees at Stoke Lodge, to plant later this season.

“Work with the Council, follow things up and find them some money, and wondrous things happen!”

Items 1 to 5: [stephanie@srfrench.co.uk](mailto:stephanie@srfrench.co.uk)

### And now the rest of the world!

- 6) Eastville Park – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb approx. 1pm – Planting PLUS Tree tour and talk by Tony Titchen, an inspirational speaker, free of charge – contact: [helen.humphries@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:helen.humphries@bristol.gov.uk)
- 7) Downs planting plan being discussed at Down’s Committee meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan (Cllrs Glenise Morgan and Martin Fodor – and more are on the Committee).
- 8) Student volunteering – post your advert on:  
<http://www.ubu.org.uk/activities/volunteering/externalorgs/>
- 9) Actions from last TreeForum meeting:
  - i Didn’t progress Green Capital Grants to all NPs for tree planting (lack of resource)
  - ii iTree for valuing Bristol’s trees (postponed; lack of resource). Still a desire to do this though.
  - iii new Council process notifying Councillors of proposed felling of Council managed trees (since 1.11.14)
  - iv Conditions attached to S106 / UU vary. What is the correct wording please? And timescale? **Richard?**

10) Stop Press: 4 trees (stump replacements) to be planted in St Lukes Rd – Windmill Hill

AND – Trees around Fire Brigade (now demolished) have been saved!

**Appendix 2 – Council’s Tree Management Organisation**

