

DRAFT

Minutes of a meeting of the Tree Forum committee, Apr 10 2017 at 8 Edgcombe Rd

Present Peter Harnett, chair, Richard Bland, Secretary, Jim Smith, Vassili Papastavrou. John Tarlton, treasurer. Stephanie French

Apologies. Mark Ashdown

1 Briefing for Scrutiny Committee. The scrutiny committee meeting had been put forward to April 24. The statement originally prepared by VP still stood. It had become clear that the tree department had been reduced, and the Neighbourhood Partnership scheme abandoned. Street tree maintenance was to be heavily reduced.

There was discussion of two sources, the Community Infrastructure Levy and the section 106 money arising from the Tree Replacement System. It was not clear who was now administering these funds. New problems had arisen from the Disability Access rules, that meant that many street planting sites were now being ruled out because of lack of pavement space. It was clear that there would be no public money for new trees in future, and private sponsorship should be sought.

2 BTRS Concern was expressed about two methods developers were using to get round the Tree replacement system, by clearing a site of trees without permission and then leaving the site empty for a year before proposing development. It was recommended that the period during which the BTRS should be paid be extended to five years. Secondly developers were seeking to replace trees with hedges, and this should be prevented. There was concern that the present crisis would damage the enforcement system.

3 University funds. Bristol University still had money for some 60 trees and John asked the committee to send him recommendations for stump sites.

4 Metro mayor election. It was agreed that the chair would draft a letter to the candidates in the May 4 election for West Country Mayor, seeking their assurance that the policy of doubling canopy cover in a generation should be maintained. RB would find candidate list.

5 Liaison with Parks Forum and Civic Society. Agreed that our minutes should be sent to Civic Society and Parks Forum, that we would welcome representatives from the , and that we would point out the value of the data on our website.

6. Planning applications. It was agreed that this would only be effective if we had more people with the time and energy to do it. Meanwhile we would seek to react to Marks suggestions.

7 Public Tree forum. It was agreed that we should have a public meeting on Oct 30th. Vassilli had a speaker from Sheffield. meeting Suggested a date in October. Vassilli suggested a speaker he knows from Sheffield. Details to be planned. RB to inform R Ennion

8 DONM Monday 26 June 7.30 pm 8 Edgcombe Rd. Please note time.