

Bristol Tree Forum Committee meeting

4th March 2019

Mark Ashdown (Chair), Councillor Jos Clark, Stephanie French, Sean Harding, Vassili Papastavrou (notes), Colin Palmer, Jim Smith, Mary Stevens (Friends of the Earth), John Tarlton, Chris Wallace.

Apologies: Peter Harnett, Tim Brandram (BCC)

The meeting was hosted by Colin Palmer and held in Headley Park Church Hall, Bishopsworth

1. Action arising.

Section 106/CIL Update. Mark indicated that 200-300 trees planted in the last season. Preliminary submissions to each Area Committee have to be put in by 15 March and Mark is taking the lead on this. The [One City Plan](#) to double canopy by 2046 should be quoted in any bid to access S106/CIL money.

APfBUF. BTF submitted a document to the last meeting of the Action Plan for Bristol's Urban Forest. 12% canopy cover was agreed which seemed a bit low and therefore a 3% increase by 2036 would be within the error bounds.

Banner - Sean Harding to provide photos to JT and then we will prepare the banner.

Bristol Tree of the year - It was felt to be a success, so we are going to make plans to do it again in 2019.

Richard Bland memorial. A site will be found on the Downs for a group of trees. John Atkinson of BCC will come back with a planting plan. Sean Harding proposed an offspring of an ancient oak should be planted for future pollarding.

2. BTRS. We have expressed the concern that when BTRS is applied, like is not being replaced with like. There have even been examples where large trees have been replaced with hedging. Stephanie will collate examples where hedges had been planted through the BTRS trees, then a meeting with Bristol City Council will be requested with a view to tightening up the BTRS.
3. Stoke Lodge. The key question for the Bristol Tree Forum is whether Bristol City Council is correct in stating that permitted development rights trump TPO law. No other local authority or professional body takes this view to our knowledge. The BTF may prepare a blog, or even write a paper outlining the issues at stake. In addition, there is a need to TPO all the remaining trees on Stoke Lodge. Following the construction of the fence, a continuing issue is that the access gates are in the worst place as they are under the TPO trees and thus vehicles will repeatedly drive over the root protection areas of these important TPO'd trees. The council position now is that it is saying that it can do nothing about this now that the fence is in place.

4. Wyevale Garden Centre (Brislington West)

Jos Clark, Brislington West ward Councillor briefed the meeting on the removal of 6 acres of trees at Wyevale Garden Centre (which has now closed). The felling started at the weekend and continued on the Monday when Bristol City Council served an emergency TPO on the remaining trees and the rest of the site. Approximately 100 trees were felled. The site was cleared by Wednesday. The owners are Litt Brothers. No planning application has been made yet. The Forestry Commission went down on Friday and they may not have had a licence to fell the trees. They are investigating. Mathew Bennett, BCC Arbs Officer has been dealing with this.

Action arising: Sean Harding to SH to contact Matt Bennett to see if the stumps have been measured, so that the BTRS can be applied if a planning application were submitted.

There is a clear need for an emergency 24 hours phone number

5. Place of next meeting. The next meeting is confirmed at Stoke Lodge on 13th May 2019

Vassili Papastavrou 18 April 2019