

Bristol Tree Forum Committee meeting 13th May 2019 7-9pm, Stoke Lodge.

Peter Creed, Stephanie French, Raol Kender, Vassili Papastavrou (notes), Jim Smith (acting Chair), John Tarlton, Chris Wallace

Apologies: Mark Ashdown, Colin Palmer, Sean Harding

Stephanie welcomed the Bristol tree Forum to Stoke lodge and we had a guided tour around the arboretum before the meeting started.

1. Action Arising

Vassili's paper on community engagement in urban tree management has now been published. This is the link to the paper - [Community engagement in urban tree management decisions: the Bristol case study](#).

John reported that the BTF banner has now been ordered.

Festival of Nature (8-9 June 2019); Jim suggested that the BTF should consider becoming involved again in the future and several of us may attend informally this year.

John has been in touch with University of Bristol to discuss how to maximise tree planting opportunities in the new Temple Quarter site.

Jim is preparing a list of Tree Champions. Chris suggested a training session for tree champions.

Action arising: Jim will collate a list of names, emails and areas for Tree Champions for discussion at the next meeting, including a training session for tree champions.

We need still to check with Sean to see if the stumps of the Wyvale trees that were removed without permission were measured, in order that the Bristol Tree Replacement Standard could be applied in the future.

Richard Bland memorial copse: we all like the design and would like to compliment those who designed the copse. An information board would be a good addition.

Stoke Lodge: the question remains to be resolved as to whether Bristol's view that permitted development rights trump TPO Law.

Action arising: Mark Ashdown will soon write to James Brokenshire regarding permitted developments and TPO law

Bristol Tree of the Year. We will be doing this for a second year.

Action Point: Mark to call for nominations and then run the poll in Sept/Oct. It was felt that past winners can't be re-submitted. John suggested a tree photograph of the year competition and the prize would be the tree to go on the banner

3. CIL Section 106 proposals

Mark has been working with Keith Houghton and John Atkinson to try to consolidate those S106/CIL proposals which have been submitted. Councillors are supposed to have made informal decisions (so much for decisions made in a public forum) about what will go forward to Stage II by the end of this month/early June, so Mark is awaiting their decisions before starting to work up the detail - assuming that they want to progress the proposals.

In addition we discussed the need for a simple document to explain this process to new people.

Action arising: Stephanie is going to prepare a simple guide to accessing CIL and Section 106 monies for tree planting.

4. Strengthening and Consolidating the BTRS.

We discussed Stephanie's paper which will be put on the website when finalised.

Planning applications submitted after the felling has occurred need to be subject to the BTRS. The present one year needs to be increased to two years or longer. There is also the issue of the one-mile radius. If a large tree has been removed, it should be replaced with trees capable of becoming a similar size. Stephanie will come up with a revised proposal and a suggestion as to how it should be incorporated in the local plan review (the BTF comments have now been submitted subsequent to the meeting). It was decided to stress the BCC aspiration to double tree canopy and the climate emergency that was adopted.

5. Draft Local Plan

As well as the excellent paper Stephanie has written, Mark has been helping Chris map the sites [Trees of Bristol by site category](#). Chris updated us on the process for the designation of sites. "Local Green Space" is deemed to be stronger than the current designation. It is unclear whether the areas that are omitted are deliberate or accidental. There is at present no list of places that have been omitted.

Action point: Mark is going to draft the BTF submission to the Local Plan Review (now submitted)

6. AOB

The University of Bristol has plans to double the accommodation on Stoke Bishop Campus. There will be lots of pressure on existing and even the newly replaced trees that were planted as a result of the last expansion on this site.

The BCC tree management policy is currently being re-drafted without any consultation with the BTF. We will comment on the version that has been submitted in due course.

7. Date and Place of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 1 July. Location to be determined

Action point: all to look for possible venues.

Vassili Papastavrou 2 June 2019