



## Bristol Tree Forum Committee Meeting Notes - 04 May 2020

Mark Ashdown (Chair) Stephanie French, Sean Harding, Vassili Papastavrou (Secretary), Jim Smith, John Tarlton (Treasurer) and Chris Wallace. Apologies: Peter Creed.

The meeting was held via Zoom

### 1. Reports from Officers

The treasurer reported that there is £5,955 in the BTF account.

### 2. Suggestions for possible allocation of available funds:

- a. Cover ongoing regular expenses such as our website subscriptions etc.
- b. Buy a second banner. We will prepare a new banner (estimated cost £50). John to take the lead.
- c. Sean will cost a possible tree photo exhibition after the lockdown has ended.
- d. Print leaflets: in the current circumstances it was agreed not to go ahead with producing a leaflet unless a specific event called for one.
- d. Support Avon Needs Trees? It was agreed to donate £500 donation.
- e. Vassili presented a draft proposal for a technical workshop on building around existing urban trees after lockdown. It was agreed to allocate up to £1,500 to allow this workshop to go ahead. Vassili will now develop the idea, find appropriate co-sponsors, identify key experts to attend and locate additional funding.
- f. It was agreed to purchase five dendrometers at £20 each. This was part of the initial [Adopt a Tree](#) initiative.
- g. Purchase £200 spare oak saplings (see item 7 below).

### 3. Bristol Open Doors in September

It was agreed that we develop possible tree walks through Trees of Bristol. Following some discussion of the need for “virtual” guides, Mark will write to the Architecture Centre.

### 4. CO<sub>2</sub>e Carbon Calculator (Chris/John)

We have developed a new [CO<sub>2</sub>e Carbon Calculator](#) which can calculate the impact of felling a tree on the CO<sub>2</sub>e sequestered by it. It can also be used to calculate how many trees would need to be planted for offsetting what has been lost. We discussed how it works, our recent [blog](#) and the [letter](#) about it which John has sent to BCC councillors. This raises a number of issues regarding planning and whether at least some of the tree’s replacements could be planted elsewhere. We also considered the implications of a possible mortality rate for the new trees of 25% - 30%.



#### **5. Trees of Bristol update (Chris)**

An additional Tree care application (under development) would allow the voluntary time and effort that members of the public put into maintaining trees to be supported and recorded. There is an ongoing issue of keeping the database up to date with BCC data. We also discussed a Tree walks App. Maybe also add tree planting/felling numbers.

#### **6. Action to get environmental issues considered in planning (John).**

There is a need to consider this further following the recent Heathrow third runway planning decision. We need to get this taken into account within our local planning policies. We also need to promote the application by planners of the environment and green infrastructure policies that are already built into planning policies but do not appear to be applied.

#### **7. 750,000 oak and other unplanted saplings.**

Due to COVID-19, some tree planting projects did not happen. As a result some 750,000 trees were not planted nationally. John will explore a purchase of £200 worth of trees either to be retained by the nursery they are planted in or to be planted on a local allotment.

#### **8. Tree planting proposal for BCC (John).**

An additional 30 trees is proposed on Redland Green through a UTCF grant. This has required some dialogue with BCC Tree Officers which has proved difficult.

#### **8. Any other business**

A number of ongoing issues were discussed - The Downs mowing regime, the M32 maples, Muller Rd, Redland Girls School, Stoke Lodge and Brislington Nursery (near the Bath P&R) where a woodland was felled illegally. In the case of Brislington Nursery BCC was asked to TPO remaining trees which were then felled. Unfortunately, the Planning Office has not engaged with BTF over the proposal to remove 26 trees for landscaping purposes at the former Redland Girls site, despite the fact that the removal of these trees is not required for the development to go ahead and is contrary to Bristol's own green infrastructure policies. The mowing regime on The Downs appears to be damaging trees and may well have resulted in the recent failure of one: The BTF has raised this issue with The Downs Committee. This appears to be a general problem elsewhere in Bristol and has been raised with respect to Stoke Lodge. The M32 maples campaign is ongoing and efforts are being made to clarify that the trees in question are indeed owned by the Council and not the developer.

Ends Vassili Papastavrou 31 May 2020