



## **Bristol Tree Forum Committee Meeting 7 September 2020**

### **Present (via Zoom)**

Mark Ashdown (chair), Stephanie French, Vassili Papastavrou (sec), James Smith, John Tarlton (treasurer), Chris Wallace (web site and IT), Sean Harding

### **1. Reports from officers**

John Tarlton indicated that there is £4,200 in the account following a few transactions. The BTF would like to use some of this money to plant say two standard trees perhaps in Knowle West or St Pauls. We are looking for possible sites.

### **2. Changing bank accounts**

John is looking at changing bank accounts

### **3. Tree champions**

Around 11 confirmed. No cover in areas in area 3 and 4 at the moment which we need to address. Stephanie and Jim will continue engaging with the Tree Champions, especially the new ones regarding planning, but need help with the other issues (sites, sponsorship, engaging with councillors). Chris will update the list. Sean will write guidance on tree management issues and Mark will prepare information on how to get trees planted.

### **4. Metrobus trees**

The BTF has been trying to get action on the failed metrobus trees. Finally, the BCC project manager has confirmed to us that there will be a final effort to replace failed trees. Mark reported that 2,200 trees were planted and 53% died within the first two years. The Hengrove Way section is only of six metrobus sections and we do not know the failure rate in the other sections. In addition, Jim reported trees were planted on Airport Road (not metrobus), without the knowledge of the BCC tree officer, very late in the season and most have died.

The current system clearly needs a radical overall. If trees are planted as part of a big planning application or road development, the tree planting should be subcontracted to BCC.

### **5. University of Bristol Trees**

John now has details of all the UoB trees that were planted that could now be listed as a group on the Trees of Bristol Website to show the scale of the planting that was done.

### **6. FOIs on Joint Mitigation Protocol**

These show a patchy implementation of the JMP by those that signed up to it. BCC would not reveal any data. The JMP is soon to be reviewed and our FOIs may contribute to that process.



## **7. Tree Planting Plans**

John has got 1,000 oak trees arriving soon and is liaising with John Atkinson regarding tree planting schemes where these trees could be used. Jim may be able to use 100 in Filwood. In addition, we will ask all the tree champions if they can use them. The BTF has also offered help with Bristol's successful bid for the Urban Tree Challenge Fund which is planting trees in more deprived areas and is ready to help. In addition, we are coming up with the tree planting season through section 106 (200+trees) and BTF is helping with that.

## **8. AGM in November**

It was decided that it cannot be face-to-face.

(Subsequent to this meeting it was decided to postpone until the spring and produce a Newsletter blog in the meantime to round up the year.)

## **9. Any other business**