



Bristol Tree Forum Minutes 15 March 2021

Present: Mark Ashdown (Chair), Stephanie French, Sean Harding, Dougal Matthews, Vassili Papastavrou (secretary), John Tarlton (Treasurer), Chris Wallace (Trees of Bristol and datasmith)

1. Reports from Officers. John Tarlton announced that the transfer of bank accounts to Metro Bank has been successful and we will eventually get our £1,250 switch incentive money.
2. Meeting with Councillors Asher Craig, Nicola Beech and Stephen Fulham. Mark and Vassili met with the councillors and the mayor's policy advisor to discuss future collaboration. Little would be possible until after the May elections
3. Managing the 2021 S106 funding round (Mark). This year there is more than £300K available from Section 106 funding for tree planting. Trees have to be planted within 1 mile radius and many of the easy tree planting locations have now been filled (two years ago the backlog of funding was £500K). Tree Bristol is no longer providing sufficient tree planting locations. We now need to start identifying new sites which is a much more complicated process (consultation, services searches etc). It was decided to convene a meeting with officers and local councillors to encourage more flexibility between area committees and to determine new sites. We need to develop cooperation with Highways to open up new planting locations. In the centre of town, the BTRS should be calculated to allow for a new engineered tree pit at a cost of £3388. We need a pragmatic approach to where the money lands and where it is possible to plant trees.
4. Inviting Stan Cullimore to do street trees/tree Trails. Jim has suggested that Stan (who has a Bristol Post column) might be asked to do a tree trail, or to introduce street trees. Chris is currently preparing tree trails for the trees of Bristol website (in part using information provided by Richard Bland) which can be followed on a smartphone or printed out.
5. Filwood Broadway tree planting (Jim). This was funded by the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (which BTF helped with). Although we were involved in distributing consultation leaflets, we were left out of the results of the consultation and only heard about the planting at the last minute. These were all planted under the auspices of OTPC.
6. OTPC 800 street trees planted this year, which is a record, and x thousand whips. Trees of Bristol intends to record all the trees planted by OTPC since its inception
7. Contributing to Trees of Bristol website. Chris noted that early five years since Trees of Bristol website was started. Chris would like help from all of us in improving the data and content for parks and individual trees, helping with the trails and providing good photos.



8. Ongoing issues

Fate of our oak sapling give away. All 1,600 oaks have been handed on. Jim has found a new location for 10 oaks in a local school grounds and 30 will be planted on the Northern Slopes. We would like to do this again next year, maybe starting with 2,000 trees.

Metrobus - Hartcliffe Way - of the 2,000 trees planted in 2018 there has been a 150% failure rate. So far, these trees have not been replaced. We have not received information on many of the other Metrobus plantings. In addition, we need to find out whether the heavy standards (e.g., Creswick Road) that have failed will be replaced.

Ashley Oak/M32 maple. The FOIs have not resulted in the disclosure of key information regarding the Ashley Oak. The remaining M32 maple was removed in another illegal dawn raid but no action will be taken by BCC despite the dangerous manner in which this was done.

In addition, the Committee remains concerned about ongoing issues on Stoke Lodge and supports the efforts of the Chair to resolve these issues)

8. Any other business

John indicated that efforts are underway to collate a national group of urban tree campaigners and an urban tree manual to help new campaigns.

Finally, Jim noted the excellent new tree champions who are coming on board.

Vassili Papastavrou 16 March 2021