



Bristol Tree Forum: Planning Module 7

Finding where the trees are: Tree Sponsorship: Getting new trees planted.

This is not just a planning issue, but the procedures you learn about here do have some overlap with negotiating your way around some Planning questions, and for some TCs it is all you really want to know about - how to get trees planted across the City. So I intend to distribute this last Module to all TCs - even those who do not want to tackle the challenge of Planning and Trees.

Where are the Trees?

Most of the trees in Bristol are privately owned.

But some of those are in Conservation Areas or have TPOs and will thus be subject to Planning Laws via the Local Planning Authority (LPA) = Bristol City Council in our case. Conservation Areas are mapped (KnowYourPlace and Pinpoint) and TPO trees are mapped by the Government, on OpenData, some on PinPoint and also on our sister site Trees of Bristol.

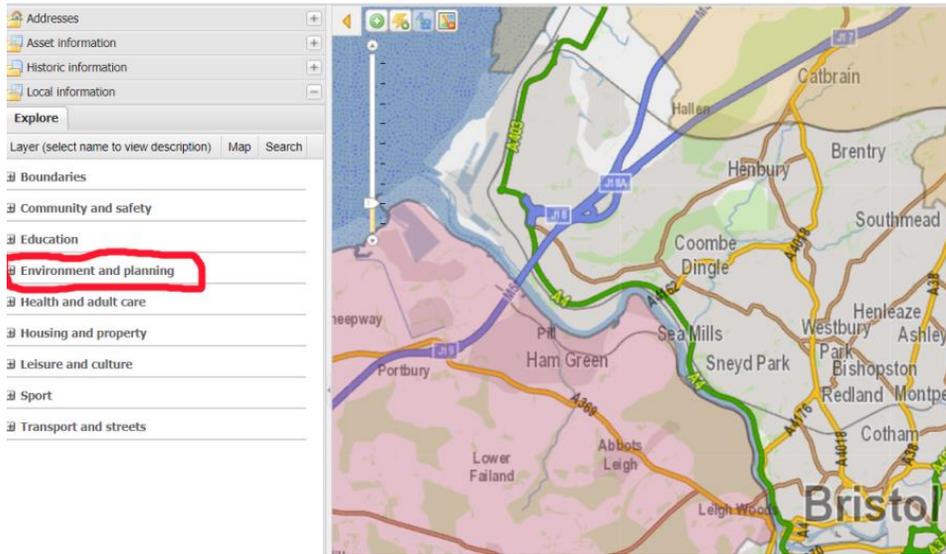
Council owned trees are mapped. The mapping is not always up to date - but it is better than nothing. Those of us who do lots of Planning work and who are experienced at it, report to the Council via the “Report a Problem with a Tree” page where we detect wrong or missing information on the tree mapping.

The Council Trees are to be found in one of the two places I have described to you before when we learned about finding Bristol’s Conservation Areas.

They are on Bristol’s [Pinpoint mapping](#).

<https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/pinpoint/>

If you open the Pinpoint map and then go to the left-hand list/menu you will find “Environment and Planning”



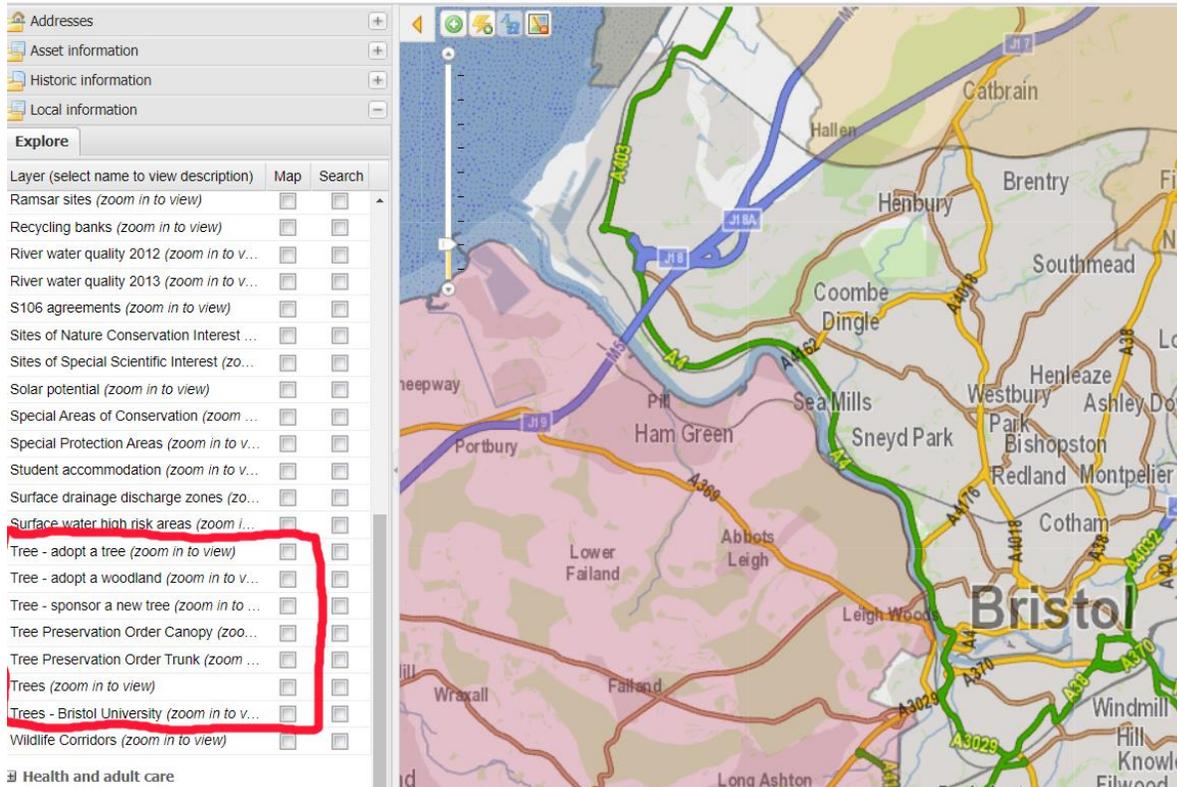
If that list drops down, fortunately in alphabetical order.

you click on then a huge

There are seven Tree sections. Two are particularly important for our purpose today, but you may like to have a look at all of them.

The important ones are:

1. Tree - sponsor a new tree (*zoom in to view*)
2. Trees (*zoom in to view*)



No 2 of my list is the one we want to start with. Click into the Map box, not the Search box. You need to Zoom in on the area of the map you are interested in and be patient. Gradually the urban publicly owned forest will emerge. Then you navigate to the area you want, and you can get in to quite a high magnification. It is good fun!

(There are two versions of PinPoint. Council Officers use their own version. I do not know the technicalities of it, but sometimes the public version just won't load the info you want. I think it is a thing of the moment - too many Council Officers looking at the bit you want and probably the server is too small to cope. Just go away and do something else and return another time!)



You should find every single Street and Park tree indicated by little tree icons appear on the map when you click the Trees map box. Looks crowded - but as you zoom in they separate and the locations of the tree sites become obvious.

Click on the tree icon and a small box opens with identification numbers of the TPL (Tree Planting Location), the species, its' size when last measured and its' site number.



The two numbers, Site Code and Plot Number are the most important identifiers, so if you are using the information for any purpose then note those numbers and the Street name or Park name.



When you click on another tree icon the first opened box will eventually disappear - but slowly. So to aid your work close each tree's info box with the x in the top RH corner of the box.

You can learn about species of tree using this mapping. That might help with a resident's query to you, or help you if you are trying to get replacement trees nearby.

Bristol Tree Officers do know which trees, and which varieties of a tree species, grow in Bristol's climate and conditions. Wild fancies of exotic delicate trees will not get the OK even if you have found some sponsorship money. BCC also tries to maintain similar trees in similar areas. If there are 12 tree pits in a road and 10 of them have Silver Birch and your efforts are replacing 2 trees in vacant pits - then the replacements will be Silver Birch. If a whole area or street is being re'treed then the piper who is paying has more of a say. But huge London Planes do not get planted in small cul de sacs, and trees needing annual pruning of major side branches do not get planted on bus routes.

Where does the money come from?

Most Street Tree/Green Space Tree/Park Tree funding for replacement trees comes from Section 106 (aka Unilateral Undertaking) funds. These pots of money arise when a developer fells tree developing a site, or a householder fells trees to enlarge his house, build another house in his large garden, or park his car, and the developer etc, cannot plant the replacement trees that he is obliged to provide on the site he is developing.

The Bristol Tree Replacement Standard comes into force. (I described the BTRS to you in the Planning Module on Bristol's Development Policies. For those of you not on the Planning Course the link to it is in the Tree Champion Advice Document, at the end.)

If the developer can only plant 3 of a required 6 trees on site then he pays 3 X £765.21 into the public pot of money.

This sum is kept Area by Area -Bristol's Area Map to be found here:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/32767/Area+committee+map>

and the pot is distributed annually through a series of meetings of the Councillors for each Area. Tree money can only be spent on Trees so there is little arguing. You can help by finding how much money your Area has using this BCC website page:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/council-spending-performance/section-106-money>

navigating your way to your Committees page. eg.

[Area Committee 2 Section 106 monies held](#) (this is not a link)

Clicking on that to find the Table:

(example is current Area Committee 2)

bristoltreeforum.org



<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/239028/Area+Committee+2+Section+106+monies.pdf/765edfd9-a5db-2e8a-ff44-911582d11a50>

This Table does not copy and maintain formatting, so to look at what I am saying you will need to open the document on line. I insert a screenshot at the end.

Find the name “Richard Ennion” in Column 2, as he is the Service Manager responsible for Tree s106 monies.

In this example at the end I have chosen you will see 2 sums of money allocated for trees - totalling £1411.78. This would pay for 1.8 trees! (Do not ask me why the sums are not divisible by £765.21 exactly as a “per tree” cost. I do not know. There are dark arts at work here. We have asked - and answer came there none.)

As the “Money Available schedules” get updated then the worked example here will not be on line. Sorry. By looking at it you can get the idea.

If you were so minded you could help your Councillors here - with whom the ultimate responsibility for the choice lies - to find sites for replacement trees within a mile of the development that gave rise to the s106 payment.

You would find the sites by looking at the Tree Sponsorship page on the PinPoint map already described (We are coming to that in a minute!). Tree Sponsorship sites are available for private residents and corporate sponsors, and for s106 money allocated by Councillors. They are the sites that once had a tree in them, and they will recently have been checked for Services (cable TV, Sewers, Water). As they once had a tree in them then no consultation has to be done before another tree can be planted.

Sometimes you find that there is no tree money. Sometimes you find that there might be Tree money - but then you find in Column 4 that the money has already been allocated at the last Area Committee meeting - so there is no “fresh/unspent” money for you.

These tables are supposed to be updated monthly. There is often a lag. Don’t get cross - Jim Cliffe, the BCC Officer responsible for overseeing the spend of the £millions of contributions that developers pay to BCC each year (sadly not just for trees) is an Angel who works very hard and is very approachable with questions - responsive and polite.

Tree Sponsorship

This is another way to get replacement trees into your streets and parks.

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/museums-parks-sports-culture/treebristol-planting-trees-in-bristol>

The cost of a privately sponsored tree, or a corporately sponsored tree, going into an already existing tree planting location, e.g, a vacant Street Tree pit - which may not have a Stump in it - is (only) £295.



The rationale for this is that the site is already being maintained by the Council - but really is priced to encourage sponsorship, as £765.21 is much less affordable for many people.

People sponsor trees privately to mark special occasions, as an “in memoriam” tree is the most frequent. But some residents experience a disease or age wipe-out of all or many of the trees in their street, and club together to replace as many trees as they can afford. If a resident is hoping to sponsor a tree then they are taken to the sponsorship mapping on PinPoint by a link within that page, to choose their tree. Having chosen a tree site an order for downloads and is then completed by the sponsor and returned (electronically) to BCC - who then send the bill to the sponsor.

The vacant Tree Planting Locations can be found by you on the PinPoint map in the Tree Section of Environment section. If you are asked by a resident where trees might be planted, or asked by your Councillor to find tree planting locations for the s106 annual spend, then this section of PinPoint is the place to go to.

When you click in that Tree Sponsorship box in the L. hand menu, and then zoom in on the part of the map you want, the tree sponsorship sites on offer appear - and they are tree icons that are larger than the ones that show as “existing” trees.

It is possible to have both existing trees and tree sites up for sponsorship on show at the same time. This is handy if you want to see where replacing trees would have the greatest impact in “completing” the scene.

Now you can see how the same map (PinPoint) is used for three of your purposes:

- To find how to describe and identify the trees in streets and parks.
- To find Street and Park vacant tree sites where s106 money could be spent each year if your Area has some.
- To help residents to spend their money on new trees.

Can I help with the allocation of Tree s106 money in my Area to get trees planted where they are needed and people want them?

The answer is -“Yes if you want to”.

You will need to:

1. Introduce yourself to your local Councillors and say you can help.
2. Become familiar with using PinPoint mapping - both for sponsorship sites available and where there are trees at the moment.
3. Find how much money, if any, your Area has and work out how many trees that might pay for at £765.21 per tree.
4. Contact Mark Ashdown Chair of Bristol Tree Forum via the Tree Forum website. as it is the Bristol Tree Forum (mostly Mark) working with John Atkinson, BCC Tree Officer, who carry out this exercise every year. Tell Mark which Ward/Area you are finding



Tree Sites for.

Councillors usually value local opinion and assistance so if you can help - starting in February each year - then speak up.

The decision meeting is in July each year.

The tree planting season is November 1st to March 31st.

Tree Stumps

Q. Why are stumps left behind in tree planting locations when the tree has been taken away?

A. So that the location for planting a replacement tree some time is preserved. You would be surprised just how many empty tree planting locations have had water meters put in them, or get incorporated into the entrances to drives, or have a lamp standard put in them. Yes they are ugly - but it is better to keep them as a potential site for a tree in the future.

Page 8: S106 funds for Area Committee 2 end December 2020

The screenshot shows a PDF document titled "Area Committee 2 Devolved Section 106 monies held as at 31 December 2020". The table contains the following data:

Permission / Site / S106 Code	Contact Officer	Current Contribution Value	Time Limit	Purpose of Contribution
0902748 / 115 - 117 Station Road, Henbury	Adam Crowther (Sustainable Transport Manager)	£8,114.95	No Limit	The provision and/or improvement and/or maintenance of the following: a) supporting the orbital bus route which passes through the local area b) pedestrian and cycle provisions in the local area c) bus stop infrastructure upgrade
1200101 / 148 to 156 Gloucester Road, Bishopston	Keith Chant (Parks Assets and Projects Manager)	£19,384.49	11 Jan 17	The provision of improvements to Parks and Open Spaces within one mile of 148 to 156 Gloucester Road (Funding allocated on 22 October 2012 to Horfield Common Childrens Play Ground and will be drawn down as the scheme progresses)
0901723 / Machin House, Machin Road, Henbury	Keith Chant (Parks Assets and Projects Manager)	£9,040.56	No Limit	The provision of improvements to Parks and Open Spaces within one mile of Machin House (Funding allocated on 23 Sep 19 to Okabourne Open Space)
1201237 / Gisa County Cricket Club, New Road, Bishopston	Mark Sperry (Area Highways Manager)	£21,023.13	12 Dec 18	The provision of improvements to pedestrian facilities in the vicinity of the development (Funding allocated on 24 Sep 18 to pedestrian facilities improvements near the Cricket Ground)
0605013 / Former Severn Way Filling Station, Wyck Beck Road, Southmead	Mark Sperry (Area Highways Manager)	£15,566.36	No Limit	The provision of traffic management and/or highways measures in the vicinity of the former Severn Way Filling Station.
0602831 / Lidl, Southmead Road, Southmead	Mark Sperry (Area Highways Manager)	£12,553.57	No Limit	The provision of traffic management and/or highways measures in the vicinity of the Lidl store on Southmead Road.
1904618 / Gloucester Road Medical Centre, Church Road, Horfield	Richard Emson (Horticultural Services Manager)	£909.99	No Limit	The provision and maintenance of tree planting either on-street or in public open space within a one mile radius of Church Road
1000016 / 185 Passage Road, Henbury	Richard Emson (Horticultural Services Manager)	£501.79	No Limit	The provision and maintenance of tree planting either on-street or in public open space within a one mile radius of 185 Passage Road