

Ashover Tree Group

Summary of meeting: 11 May 2016

Minutes of last meeting 17 March 2016 agreed and actions carried forward discussed as follows:

1. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

Development of our data to continue, supplemented by recent contributions from NEDCC following our meeting with them. On 10/5, two of our group compared the NEDCC TPO plan for Malthouse Lane with what is actually there. Unsurprisingly, as the plan is 16 years old, there are inaccuracies eg. 3 x missing (felled) trees, some wrongly named and some missed out in the original survey which ought to have TPO protection.

Agreed we would schedule another meeting with NEDCC to describe how we plan to go about validating the TPO plans and ascertaining the level of their interest in our findings. Also proposed we get an up to date street plan of Malthouse Lane then overlay this with the actual TPO protected trees currently in situ, along with those not currently protected.

A member mentioned The Hydro, a site of 15 acres butting onto Malthouse Lane, which has trees subject to TPOs. The name of an ideal point of contact was suggested whose contact details have since been provided to the Minutes secretary.

Update at the next meeting.

2. Expert input

We now have the name of a member of Peak Park whom it is suggested we look to as our expert on TPOs: a possible guest speaker at a future meeting. We may have to pay him a fee so the secretary will contact him and dependent on the outcome may ask the Parish Clerk if this might be funded for us.

3. Specialist speaker on riverbank preservation techniques

We have identified a speaker willing to present to us on the subject. Agreed that for illustrative purposes this would probably be best focused on a specific part of the Amber at Fallgate - there's a tree across the river clearly impeding its flow and potentially causing long term damage to the bank. An evening get-together will be ideal and optional dates will follow for those interested in taking part.

4. Member reports for the areas they represent around Ashover.

Highbredish. Gorse-bashing activity has been suspended to allow birds to nest without disturbance Ashover centre. Arising from an exchange of mail between the group and the Ashover Show secretary we have been advised that they will deal with the removal of ash, sycamore and silver birch saplings opposite the showground.

Kelstedge. Amber House, Vernon Lane has been sold, destined to be a wedding venue. Some heavy plant has been on site but at this stage there doesn't appear to be a threat to the lovely Victorian trees in the grounds.

Fabrick. Work on the heathland suspended as the bird nesting season continues.

Great Eastern Plantation. The owner of the plantation is very supportive of our interest. Initial priorities are:

- Trim out growth around the base of the trees
- Harvest the lime tree seeds and re-plant them before they go dormant
- Build protection for self-set beech saplings to prevent damage by cows
- Remove self-set hawthorne

5. Tree planting

Now confirmed that we will not be allocated free trees which we had understood were on offer. However, it emerged during group discussion that from various sources we ought to be able to obtain saplings of oak, hazel, wild cherry, holly, horse chestnut and beech.

6. Working party

Given the current nesting season, work will be mainly limited to TPOs and our response to the needs of the Great Eastern Plantation. (See above)

7. AOB

7.1 Information source on trees: for information on 'Protected Trees' and 'Common sense risk management of trees' see National Tree Safety Group's web-site - www.ntsg.org.uk.

7.2 Example of a well-managed wood: Shaw Wood, Oakerthorpe mentioned as a good example

7.3 Ashover Show: 10 August 2016: Derbyshire Smallholders have a stand at the show and they might allow us to promote the activities of our group. For discussion at our next meeting.

7.4 Parish Council Annual report: confirmed that the article about our group was published in the 2015/6 annual report.

Date of next meeting: 7.30, Thursday, 14 July at the Sports Pavilion

ATG/MT/25.5.16