

## Ashover Tree Group

### Summary of meeting: 14 July 2016

Minutes of last meeting 11 May 2016 agreed and actions carried forward discussed as follows:

#### 1. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

Following on from a team review, comparing the NEDCC TPO plan for Malthouse Lane with what is actually there we have written to (e mailed) NEDCC. The content of the letter drew attention to inaccuracies in the 16 year old plans and made an offer to the Council that our Group would re-survey and provide updated plans if this was something NEDCC would support. The next step would seem to be a meeting with a member of their Planning team but as yet a response has not been received. The secretary will follow up.

At the last meeting, mention was made of The Hydro, a site of 15 acres butting onto Malthouse Lane, which has trees subject to TPOs. We spoke to our point of contact there on who said he has a tree surgeon's recommendations for maintenance work on the trees. Following conversation involving the Tree Warden the secretary will now brief our contact on the process he needs to follow with NEDCC to secure approval for the work to go ahead.

#### 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. This action has been carried forward from the previous meeting.

#### 3. Specialist speaker on riverbank preservation techniques

The specialist joined our group on 22 June when we walked along the Amber at Fallgate. Apart from giving general advice to the group on tree density along the river-banks we were also given guidance on how we might prevent erosion in places by building revetments.

It was later agreed that, as part of their weekly working party activity, our team would progressively remove trees identified by the tree warden, dividing them into those for disposal and those we might keep, especially as stakes, for a revetment we're planning.

During our time with the specialist he described the design of a revetment. It was agreed that actually seeing a completed example would enhance our understanding of what we need to do. It was therefore proposed we go as a group to the river Doe Lea near junction 29 of the M1 where there is a revetment in situ. Details of the arrangements for our visit are to follow.

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

Highoredish. Gorse-bashing activity is now on hold to allowing birds to nest without disturbance Ashover centre. Arising from an exchange of mail some months ago between our group and the Ashover Show secretary we were advised that they would deal with the removal of ash, sycamore and silver birch saplings opposite the showground. However, nothing has happened yet so the secretary will follow up.

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. Resumption in October – December.

Great Eastern Plantation. The working party has now completed a tidy-up of the plantation with particular emphasis on removal of self-seeded hawthorne. Some group members have also obtained

some wood/mesh screens which have been erected to help mitigate damage to beech saplings by cattle grazing in the area.

At some point our work at Great Eastern Plantation and the history of the site might be an ideal topic for an article, perhaps in the parish annual report.

#### 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

See above. Work at Great Eastern has completed and the team are now focused on the river Amber, along Fallgate.

#### 7. AOB

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**Date of next meeting:** 7.30, Thursday, 15 September at the Sports Pavilion

ATG/MT/26.7.16