

## Ashover Tree Group

### Summary of meeting: 18 May 2017

The Minutes of last meeting on 16 March 2017 were agreed and the actions carried forward were discussed as follows:

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

Our plans to re-survey NEDCC's TPO plans (with their blessing), have been described in previous Minutes.

Now that trees are in leaf and easier to identify it was agreed we should progress this on those Thursday morning working group sessions when the weather is too wet to do physical work in woodland. Agreed that the secretary will circulate members on the Wednesday to advise what activity is planned for the Thursday. If it is to be TPO surveys then he will bring the plans with him.

#### 2. Expert input

A member of Peak Park had previously been identified as an expert on TPOs and we were hoping he would join us at a future meeting. However, as he has been unresponsive to e mails sent to him it was agreed we drop the idea.

#### 3. Planning applications

3.1 A communication from Act Now for Ashover (ANFA) regarding the Narrowley's Lane planning application was shared at the meeting. The update shows that the application was approved by the Secretary of State and talks through how ANFA will monitor developments to ensure the developers deliver exactly to their promises. ANFA will also try and co-ordinate challenges to other planning applications in the pipeline such as the recent one for The Bourne.

ANFA's initiatives prompted discussion of how our group might get involved to ensure tree related promises are honoured, TPOs respected and advice given on how our tree heritage around the parish might be enhanced. Agreed we should in the first instance draft a communication to both the Parish Council and ANFA offering our input.

3.2 To help develop our understanding it was also agreed we should develop a single, large map of the Parish showing where TPO protected trees are located and any other trees which might suggest a case for TPO protection. This would be a valuable source of reference for us as well as highlighting those parts of the Parish where there was a bit of a 'desert' and thus where new planting might be beneficial.

#### 4. Riverbank preservation

No developments regarding the revetment but a section of the footpath leading to it remains at risk of collapse. This has been reported to Rights of Way as a health & safety issue.

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

Highboredish. No particular problems.

Ashover Show-ground. There's plenty of evidence of maintenance/removal of trees but much less visibility of a replacement plan. Perhaps our group should come up with a plan or proposal for their consideration. Agreed that-

- we would use a map we have of the Show field to plot what's there at the moment and in turn help shape a proposal for the Show Committee on what a programme of additional planting might look like.

- We should try and secure tree group representation on the Show Committee when their planning cycle recommences in November/December.

Kelstedge. Noted that there is hedge loss in preparation for development.

Fabrick. Effects of change in management yet to become fully apparent. Likely to be a volunteer working party in autumn to focus on bracken bashing thus allowing more plant diversity.

Great Eastern Plantation. Lower branches of lime trees have been taken out. Cows are now back in the field. Saplings will be re-planted at some point, once protection from the cows is available.

Milltown. A significant amount of tree removal has taken place in Jetting Street, apparently as part of a planning application. Some local trees are leaning quite significantly and are being monitored.

Hill Road/Hill Top Road. Work tidying up the common woodland continues. Need to organise either a skip or collection of the rubbish (scrap, broken glass etc), perhaps funded by the Parish Council. NB. Rubbish has since been collected by NEDCC

#### 5. Tree planting

We have a selection of tree saplings, recently supplemented by whips from the Fabrick. These are available for re-planting around the parish, especially on Common Land such as Hill Road, Great Eastern etc.

#### 6. Working party

Thursday morning working parties, around 10.00 – 12.00 have resumed. See above - current focus is on Hill Road. Thursday, 25 May will include a litter pick.

At the last meeting a suggestion was made about a female working party. To be carried forward to the next meeting.

#### 7. AOB

Tree Group Budget. Most of our safety budget of £100 is still available.

Annual Report. Arising from her article, the Tree Warden has been asked to advise on a 'special' tree (a sycamore) in Ashover Hay.

**Date of next meeting:** 7.30, Thursday, 20 July 2017 at the Sports Pavilion

ATG/MT/05.06.17