

Ashover Tree Group

Summary Minutes of meeting: 20 July 2017

The Minutes of last meeting on 18 May 2017 were agreed and the actions carried forward were discussed as follows:

1. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

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

1.2 Agreed we should follow-up the e mail exchange of late 2015 when NEDCC promised TPO updates, probably burned on CDs. NB. NEDCC have since confirmed transfer to CDs is complete and copies will be provided to us. *Note*

1.3 To help develop our understanding it was also agreed we should develop map(s) of the Parish showing where TPO protected trees are located and any other trees which might be worthy of 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. Sectional maps have now been produced which we'll be able to overlay with TPO locations, once the CDs have been received from NEDCC. *Note*

Note. Any tree(s) planted to replace formerly TPO protected trees automatically inherit TPO status.

2. Expert input

Currently no speakers lined up for future meetings but we can review this later in the year. *Note*

3. Planning applications

3.1 After the last meeting when ANFA's communication about the Bourne development was shared within the group we discussed how our group might get involved in planning applications to ensure tree related promises are honoured by developers, TPOs respected and advice given on how our tree heritage around the parish might be enhanced.

It was agreed we should in the first write to both the Parish Council and ANFA offering our input.

This was actioned and both the Parish Council and ANFA gratefully accepted our offer.

3.2 Application for 4 detached houses on Cripton Lane. This was the first application sent direct to the Tree Warden for comment. Her report was subsequently sent to NEDCC, Ashover PC and ANFA. It was agreed that the Warden's report for this application and future reports be shared within the group.

3.3 5 Application for new houses on Ashover Rd, Kelstedge. Developer has given an undertaking that the existing 3 – 4 large trees will be retained within the hedgerow and on this basis the Tree Warden had no objection to the application

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.

- We have met with the owner of the Show fields and who's very interested in the trees on the site. Apparently, the Show committee recently commissioned a tree survey and we have been promised a copy.

- Meanwhile, the Tree Warden has used a map she has of the Show field to plot what's there at the moment showing the types of tree and their current condition. She is part way through the exercise and once complete it should help us shape a proposal for the land-owner and 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. No developments to report (except for the planning application, mentioned above).

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. Saplings / whips will be re-planted at some point, once protection from the cows is available.

Milltown. Recent removal of the TPO protected tree was agreed on condition of replacement with 2 others. We need to ensure this undertaking is honoured.

Hill Road/Hill Top Road. Work tidying up the common woodland continues. Attendance at the 18 July Tree Management course prompted discussion about potential liabilities to the public arising from the work we're doing here. Confirmed that the Parish Council's public liability cover for volunteer workers includes indemnity for work on common land.

5. Tree planting

We have a selection of tree saplings, recently supplemented by whips from the Fabrick and the 'nursery' has more capacity. These young trees 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 continue. Current focus is on:

- Hill Road. See above
- Brash clearance on the slopes above Demonsdale – so people walking along the track will be able to see the caves again.

7. AOB

Tree Group Budget. The Tree Warden has come across some gloves ideally suited for protection against brambles, thorns etc. Details to be provided to the secretary who will ask the PC for an order to be placed.

Laminated maps of Ashover. Available in village tea-shop and worth a look for reference purposes.

Footpath book printing was funded by the PC. May be worth re-printing with tree related input and sharing of proceeds between the two groups? For discussion at next meeting.

Date of next meeting: 7.30, Thursday, 14 September 2017 at the Sports Pavilion

ATG/MT/27.07.17