

Ashover Tree Group

Summary of meeting: 14 September 2017

The Minutes of last meeting on 20 July 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 NEDCC have now provided us with a CD record (2 x copies) of their latest TPO records for the parish from which we have produced hard copies. There is a need to validate these as the plans and schedules don't marry up in every case – some have one and not the other.

1.3 We have also obtained an A1 size map of the parish and the intention is to extrapolate the TPO data onto this to give a much clearer perspective for our use, notably identifying where there's a 'desert' of TPO protected trees.

1.4 Agreed each of us would give thought to local trees in the parish, currently lacking TPO protection, which might be suitable for nomination. Description / location / photos to be presented at a future meeting ahead of our planned get-together in November.

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 The Tree Warden / Secretary now receive from NEDCC / Parish Council a weekly list of planning applications regarding which we are invited to comment on any tree related issues. Agreed within the group that it was unnecessary to copy this on to the rest of the group as much of the content was irrelevant to us (house extensions etc). Instead, the secretary will circulate details of any application where there was a clear implication for local trees.

Meanwhile, the status of current, relevant, applications is as follows:

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. Outcome awaited

3.3 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 confirmed no objection to the application. No further developments

3.4 Application for 26 new houses on the field adjoining Moor Rd/Narrowleys Lane. Outline permission had previously been given and a detailed application has now been submitted. This shows material differences to the outline plan and has some negative impact on trees, notably the TPO protected oak. The Tree Warden has placed an objection accordingly with NEDCC / Ashover PC. Agreed it would be useful if we took photos of trees around the site, while in leaf, so we have a bench-mark for future reference.

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. *Note*

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

Highoredish. NEDCC has organised work parties for end September which will include some volunteers.

Ashover Show-ground.

- The Tree Warden has received from the owner of the Show fields a copy of a tree survey recently commissioned by the committee. The warden will brief the group once she has had an opportunity to go through the report.
- Meanwhile, the 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. This will be useful input alongside the above-mentioned tree report, in helping 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. There's an overhanging tree branch at the upper end of the Vernon Lane bridleway which may be a hazard for horse-riders. Noted for action.

Fabrick. Effects of change in management yet to become fully apparent. A volunteer working party in autumn focusing on bracken bashing now seems unlikely.

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

Milltown. No developments.

Hill Road/Hill Top Road. Work tidying up the common woodland continues.

5. Tree planting

We have a selection of tree saplings, recently supplemented by whips from the Fabrick and the 'nursery' has more capacity. 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 continues. 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. Linda 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.

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, 16 November 2017 at the Sports Pavilion

ATG/MT/25.09.17