

Ashover Tree Group

Summary of meeting: 16 November 2017

The Minutes of last meeting on 14 September 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. Carried forward to next meeting.
- 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. Carried forward to next meeting.
- 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. Initial discussion at a meeting on 25 September. Agreed that as a trial run we choose a 'straightforward' case of an individual tree or small group of trees. Description / location / photos to be sent to the secretary who agreed to put a proposal together for submission to NEDCC.

2. Expert input

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

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 only 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. Application rejected.

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 had no objection to the application. No further developments.

3.4 Application to erect 2 bungalows on the paddock along Marsh Green Lane. It appears the application has been withdrawn.

3.5 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 detailed plan has been rejected and the applicant advised to revise the plan in keeping with that approved at Outline stage.

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.

Highoredish. Two rangers and 10 volunteers spent a few hours recovering the footpaths as well as removing whips. Work included paths 47, 77 and 135.

Ashover Show-ground.

- We have received from the owner of the Show fields a copy of a tree survey recently commissioned by the committee. The Tree Warden will brief the group once she has had an opportunity to go through the report. Carried Forward to next meeting.
- 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. Alongside the tree survey report this will help us shape a proposal for the land-owner and the Show Committee on what a programme of additional planting might look like. Carried forward to next meeting.
- We should try and secure tree group representation on the Show Committee when their planning cycle recommences in November/December. Carried forward to next meeting.

Kelstedge. There's an overhanging tree branch at the upper end of the Vernon Lane bridleway which may be a hazard for horse-riders. Subsequently cut back with the approval of the landowner.

Fabrick. Effects of change in management yet to become fully apparent. Some work has been done on the footpath around the foot of The Fabric, mainly bracken bashing.

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 now scaled back.

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 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.
- Basset Rooms. Recent development work has highlighted the potential benefit of cutting back over-growth adjacent to the building. A proposal has been sent to the Parish Council setting out what our working group could do subject to approval of the land-owner.

7. AOB

2018 centenary marking the end of WW1. Suggested that next year's anniversary could perhaps be celebrated in the village by the planting of a tree(s) accompanied by a suitable plaque. Agreed we would raise this with the Parish Council.

Tree Group meeting dates for 2018? Agreed that meetings continue every other month in 2018. The secretary to provide a list of suggested dates.

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? Carried forward to next meeting.

Date of next meeting: 7.30, Thursday, 18 January 2018 – subject to confirmation. Venue tba.