

Ashover Tree Group

Summary of meeting: 29 November 2018

The Minutes of last meeting on 20 September 2018 were agreed with actions carried forward as follows:

1. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

- 1.1 Our plans to re-survey NEDCC's TPO plans have been described in previous Minutes.
- 1.2 NEDCC has provided us with CD records of their latest TPO records 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.
- 1.3 We are progressing the extrapolation of TPO data onto A4 size maps of the parish.
- 1.4 Noted that there may be local trees in the parish, currently lacking TPO protection, which might be suitable for nomination. We have details of the process to follow.

2. Expert input

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

3. Planning applications

Planning applications. Status of current, relevant, applications is as follows:

- 3.1 Narrowley's Lane. Start date for development yet to be confirmed pending resolution of access and drainage issues.
- 3.2 Kelstedge. Site has been cleared for housing development but no activity since.

4. Milltown conservation area

This initiative arose from a possible future planning application for 6 houses which could have an impact on both trees and archaeology. A group walkabout took place on 24 May to form views. A proposal for future submission to NEDCC is being developed with input streams set out in the Minutes of our last meeting.

Agreed that rather than develop a fully-fledged case for SSI status for the whole area we should initially focus on securing blanket TPO protection for the smaller area of land highlighted on our map. To help build our case for submission to NEDDC (we already have a point of contact and guidance notes) we will now:

- Refine map of the proposed area which includes part of Cocking Spring Wood.
- Overlay the map with location and details of existing TPO protected trees.
- Obtain aerial photos.
- Develop narrative to support the proposal

Noted that when drawing up the proposal we should cross-refer to the conservation element of the Neighbourhood Plan as well as ensuring we have clarity of ownership of those parcels of land falling within the proposed conservation boundary.

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

Highoredish. Nothing to report.

Ashover Show-ground. The Tree Warden has carried out a survey of the Show field to plot what's there at the moment, showing the types of tree and 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.

Ashover centre. Two acacia trees on council land opposite the Crispin appear diseased and ideally should be removed and replaced with new planting. Need to progress with NEDDC.

Kelstedge. A fallen tree branch has damaged a guard rail on the 1st bridge along the bridleway along Vernon Lane. Need to alert the Footpaths group.

Fabric. Nothing to report.

Great Eastern Plantation. Nothing to report.

Milltown. Some trees have fallen across the river-side path between Jetting Street and the revetment. Need to alert the Footpaths group so they can liaise with landowner.

6. Tree planting

We have a selection of tree saplings available for re-planting around the parish

7. Working party

Thursday morning working parties continue. Current focus is:

- brash clearance on the slopes above Demonsdale
- audit of common land aimed at producing a profile of each, identifying those suitable for tidy-up
- Future potential targets include a) an overgrown area along the church-yard wall near Delph Cottage and b) possible tidy-up along the river bank between Jetting Street and the revetment (see also 5 above re Milltown)

8. 2018 centenary marking the end of WW1

Proposal: Our proposal to mark this year's anniversary was a screen of 10 trees running along the fence-line from the Black Swan towards the Fabric and accompanied by a suitable plaque. The proposal was supported in principle by the Parish Council but rejected by Ashover Show Committee who own the land. We appealed their decision but they maintained their stance without giving reasons.

Alternative: Instead, our group developed a plan for a Centenary Triangle. This features the planting of 3 beech trees on high points overlooking the parish, namely, the Fabric, Wirestone Lane and Holestone. The initiative has been self-funded by our group.

Tupton Hall School were keen to engage with us in this commemoration and are making inscribed plaques.

9. Other community engagement

- Ashover Primary School. Meetings have gone well. We have helped clear out the school pond and will be helping to lay a hedge around it
- Duke of Edinburgh award. We've been asked to help assign a project to a local person as part of the scheme. Agreed the Footpaths group may be better placed than us to facilitate.

10. AOB

- The secretary to prepare schedule for 2019 meetings, working on same format and frequency as 2018

- Agreed the Chair/Secretary continue in role through 2019.

Date of next meeting: tba

ATG/MT/03.12.18