

Ashover Tree Group

Summary of meeting: 21 March 2019

The Minutes of last meeting on 29 November 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 the Tree Warden has produced hard copies. These will need to be validated the plans and schedules don't marry up in every case.
- 1.3 Tpo data has been extrapolated 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:

Kelstedge. Work has begun on the site on Ashover Road

TPOs. Two applications for minor work in Malthouse Lane and Hillside have been supported.

4. Milltown conservation area

Following a group walkabout last May it was agreed we begin an initiative aimed at protecting the natural heritage in this area – quarries, trees, flowers/fauna, archaeology and industrial heritage. Rather than developing a fully-fledged case for SSI status for the whole area it was agreed we should initially focus on securing blanket TPO protection for the area of land highlighted on the Tree Warden's map.

The proposal, with supporting map, has now been submitted to NEDDC and we have had a response from the Planning manager. We have responded to his questions and are waiting to hear from him again.

We also shared the proposal with Ashover Parish Council, linking it with the recent National Tree Charter initiative. APC confirmed their support and asked that we provide suitable text to be incorporated within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Actions arising are as follows:

- Ask NEDDC for a status update, mentioning that we now have confirmation of support from APC.
- Prepare input for Neighbourhood Plan.
- Research the process for securing SSI status, maybe using Tideswell as a model.
- Find out how Nature Reserve status was secured for the Fabric.
- Research perception that rivers have boundaries along bank-side which must be respected.
- Involve local expertise in informal survey of the mapped area.

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

Highoredish. Nothing to report.

Ashover Show-ground. We have 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. Discussed with Rykneld and agreed we review again in Spring when foliage and the extent of any disease will be more apparent.

Kelstedge. Nothing to report.

Fabric. Nothing to report, other than that a working party will be convened at some point to tackle self-seeded trees.

Great Eastern Plantation. Nothing to report.

Milltown. See above.

6. Tree planting

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

7. Working party

Thursday morning working parties to be re-convened. Meeting needed to agree priorities.

Targets to include:

- continuation of brash clearance on the slopes above Demonsdale
- audit of common land aimed at producing a profile of each, identifying those suitable for tidy-up
- overgrown area along the church-yard wall near Delph Cottage. Check with Burials Board via Parish Clerk.

8. 2018 centenary marking the end of WW1

'Centenary Triangle' has now been planted - 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 have been working with us and are making inscribed plaques.

A dedication ceremony has been arranged for Wednesday, 3 April at 2.00pm. Participants will include Revd Lawrence, Tupton Hall School (6 students plus teacher), Parish Council chairman (if available) and members of the Tree Group.

9. AOB

MayDay. We will share two small stalls with the Footpaths Group and we'll exhibit:

- an A1 size map of the Milltown conservation area.
- a summarised narrative of Milltown proposal for A1 sizing.

Date of next meeting: 16 May 2019

ATG/MT/26.03.19