

## Ashover Tree Group

### Summary of meeting: 16 May 2019

The Minutes of last meeting on 21 March 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 There is a need to validate TPO records recently provided by NEDDC as the plans and schedules don't marry up in every case. Carried forward.

1.3 The management of the Hydro in Malthouse Lane are notably active regarding their TPO protected trees. Agreed we should make contact with them for up to date versions of their plans, compare them with records provided to us by NEDDC then use this exercise as a model for follow-up in other parts 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. Protection around the TPO oak on the site perimeter seems inadequate. Need to review this and if need be pursue via NEDDC Planning.

#### 4. Milltown conservation area

Our initiative is 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 our map.

The proposal, with supporting map, has been submitted to NEDDC and we responded to subsequent questions from the Planning manager. We need to chase for an update and perhaps seek to formalise our request (template? Logging in Planning process?) which at the moment is based on an exchange of e mails.

We also shared the proposal with Ashover Parish Council, linking it with the recent National Tree Charter initiative. APC confirmed their support and at their request we have provided suitable text for incorporation within the Neighbourhood Plan.

SSI. Initial research has been done on the process to acquire SSI status. A local contact in Ashover offered to share her experience of securing SSI status for her farm. Agreed we hold off on follow-up with her until we've achieved our first step in obtaining NEDDC approval of our request for a blanket TPO for the area.

Need to research perception that rivers have boundaries along bank-side which must be respected.

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

Highoredish. Nothing to report.

Ashover Show-ground. A survey of the Show field has been carried out 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. Local resident perception that two acacia trees on council land opposite the Crispin appeared diseased and should be removed. Last year we agreed with Rykneld we review again in

Spring and it is now apparent from the foliage that only some pruning is required. Need to relay our views to Rykneld.

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. Need to remove self-seeded beech on the slope opposite the plantation.

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. Given wildlife habitat the timing is to be agreed with Parish Lengthsman
- snowberry growth is now quite rampant along the hedge between the revetment and the bridge at Milltown and needs to be cut back. There are also overhanging branches at the bridge between the public and permissive footpath

#### 8. 2018 centenary marking the end of WW1

'Centenary Triangle' has now been planted and features 3 beech trees on high points overlooking the parish - the Fabric, Milltown and Uppertown - with inscribed plaques made by Tupton Hall School.

The dedication ceremony, involving members of the Parish Council, took place on 3 April. An article about the initiative will shortly be published in a regular circular by Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC).

#### 9. AOB

Tree Group Aims & Objectives. These were originally drafted in 2015 and we have agreed with the Parish Council we will refresh the content.

MayDay. We had our own stall, adjoining the Footpaths Group. Quite a lot of interest this time and some phone numbers given to us from people who'd like to get involved in some capacity.

**Date of next meeting:** 18 July 2019

ATG/MT/23.05.19