

Ashover Tree Group

Minutes of meeting: 25 July 2019

Welcome to two new members bringing the group to 10 members.

The Minutes of last meeting on 16 May 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. They have now provided us with up to date versions of their plans so we can compare them with records provided to us by NEDDC and use this exercise as a model for follow-up in other parts of the parish. *Note*

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. *Note*

2. Expert input

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

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 has now been improved. *Note*

Hockley Lane. NEDDC Highways have been asked to schedule clearance of tree growth while the lane is closed for drainage work during w/c 19 August. Need to check status.

Footpath closure – Jetting Street. Noted that 'temporary' closure of the permissive footpath is within landowner's rights but noted that original planning application said there would be no impact on its use. Also, the closure means that pedestrians are being diverted to a busy, narrow lane. *Note*

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 Linda's map.

The proposal, with supporting map, was submitted to NEDDC and we responded to subsequent questions from the Planning manager. The application was subsequently refused and we have now appealed the decision through the leader of DCC. *Note*

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. *Note*

We have carried out initial research on the process to acquire SSI status. Agreed we hold off on follow-up 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. Carried forward.

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

Highoredish. Work continues on installation of steps down from the car-park. Mowing due to take place soon.

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 in late 2018 that two acacia trees on council land opposite the Crispin appeared diseased and should be removed. Recent inspection shows that only some pruning is required and we have relayed 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 *Note*

7. Working party

Thursday morning working parties to be re-convened though there has been ad-hoc footpath clearance work.

Specific 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
- Himalayan balsam is an increasing problem, especially along the river

9. AOB

- Tree Group Aims & Objectives. These were originally drafted in 2015 and the updated 2019 version has been approved by the Parish Council. *Note*
- MayDay 7 Ashover Show. Each event gives us an opportunity to promote what we do so agreed we should diary to ensure we have plan for each event. *Note*

Date of next meeting: 19 September 2019

ATG/MT/05.08.19