

Ashover Tree Group

Summary Minutes of meeting: 19 September 2019

Resignation: Unfortunately, one of our members has had to resign owing to ill health, reducing our group to 9 members.

The Minutes of last meeting on 25 July 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. Agreed we should spread the work within the group so the records will be parcelled up according to where members live. *Action: Linda*

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. Follow-up site meeting being arranged.

1.4 Noted that there may be local trees in the parish, currently lacking TPO protection, which might be suitable for nomination. A possible example in the Milltown area (Ravensnest?) was mentioned: pics and details to be shared within the group.

1.5 The DCC portal will be checked to determine whether the location of TPO protected trees is included on the maps

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:

Overton, Jetting Street – 19/00910. Relates to construction of a 2-storey dwelling where a tree survey report shows that proposed extensive excavations will affect the roots of nearby trees. Review to be carried out.

Kelstedge. Work continues on the site on Ashover Road. Protection around the TPO oak on the site perimeter has now been improved.

Hockley Lane. The closure for drainage works during w/c 19 August was for only one day rather than one week. Originally, we had hoped NEDDC Highways could schedule clearance of tree growth while the lane was closed but the brief closure and the fact that most of the overgrowth is said to be from private land prevented this.

Footpath closure – Jetting Street. Noted that 'temporary' closure of the permissive footpath is within landowner's rights but the original planning application had stated there would be no impact on public use. The current closure means that pedestrians are being diverted to a busy, narrow lane. The issue has been raised with the parish council with a request that as an interim measure perhaps the footpath could be opened at weekends.

NEDDC Head of planning is due to attend parish council meeting on 15 October and this presents an opportunity to inquire the criteria for assessing TPO related applications.

4. Milltown conservation area

Our initiative is aimed at protecting the natural heritage in this area – quarries, trees, flowers/fauna, archaeology and industrial heritage. It was agreed we should initially focus on securing blanket TPO protection for the area of land highlighted on the map accompanying our application.

The proposal was initially refused but following the intervention of the leader of DCC we understand our case is now being reconsidered.

Meanwhile, Ashover Parish Council, in confirming their support, requested suitable text for incorporation within the Neighbourhood Plan and this has been provided.

SSI. We have conducted initial research on the process to acquire SSI status which we can develop dependent on NEDDC approval of our request for a blanket TPO.

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.

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

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.

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. Also, we have an opportunity to order free trees from the Woodland Trust as part of the Tree Charter initiative.

Agreed we exercise the minimum order of 10 trees (hornbeam?). Location of planting yet to be finalised.

7. Working party

Thursday morning working parties to be re-convened w/c 23 September.

Specific targets to include:

- audit of common land aimed at producing a profile of each, identifying those suitable for tidy-up.
- Ashover show field (opposite health centre). The show's committee have accepted our offer to clear ivy along the walls and removal of self-seeded trees along the field boundaries from the Black Swan, Milken Lane around the corner up towards Far Hill.
- Hill Road quarry. The canopy from self-seeded sycamore is spoiling the outlook from viewing points along Hill Top Road. Agreed we schedule a session including chain saws on Thursday, 31 October.

9. AOB

None

Date of next meeting: 14 November 2019

ATG/MT/30.09.19