

Minutes

Bristol Tree Forum Committee Meeting Monday

7th January 2019

Mark Ashdown (chair) Stephanie French, Peter Harnett, Vassili Papastavrou (notes), Chris Wallace

Apologies: Sean Harding, Councillor Anthony Negus, Councillor Liz Radford, Councillor Clive Stevens, Jim Smith, John Tarlton.

1. Action arising. There was no action arising from the previous meeting which was purely a process meeting

2. Officers' reports. The treasurer reported by email that there was no change to the accounts.

3. Major topic: Section 106 and CIL update. Mark is taking the lead on this. In the new cycle for 2019 there are 912 trees on the up-to-date list. We also need a current list of S106 and CIL money available.

4. Major topic: Bristol Tree Strategy Action Plan. There was a discussion as to how far the Action Plan had got and whether we could help by providing some draft text with a way forward. **Action Point:** Vassili, Mark and Chris to draft a discussion document

5. Other business

- banner. Once we decide on a photograph, we can go ahead and produce the banner. Very little wording.

Richard Bland memorial. **Action Point:** Mark and Chris to meet with FDAG, John Atkinson and AWT to discuss proposals for a tree planting on The Downs or elsewhere (meeting has now happened)

-Bristol Tree Replacement Standard. There is a concern that planning officers are permitting hedge planting under BTRS. **Action Point:** Stephanie and Vassili to talk with Councillor Clive Stevens and prepare for a meeting with Keith Horton and Jim Cliffe to discuss how the BTRS is being twisted to allow the planting of hedges and trees of small stature to replace oaks, limes etc. that will never become large. Some kind of like-for-like approach will be needed and therefore review and modification of BTRS.

-Redland Green: removal of stakes and cages from small trees that were recently planted by the Redland Green Community Group. Despite extensive enquiries with BCC before Christmas, it could not be determined how the cages and stakes, funded by the community, had been removed from small and vulnerable trees. BCC suggested the Redland Green Community Group should report the loss to the police. It eventually turned out that the removal had been instructed by a tree officer. Discussions are ongoing to see if there could be a meeting on site with the tree officer once a year to discuss plans, one point of contact between the tree officer and the community and consultation before tree management activities take place in the future.

- tree champions. A guidance document has been prepared explaining the role of the tree champions by Liz and Stephanie. **Action Point:** Mark to finalise guidance document and put it on the BTF web site. **Action Point:** Jim Smith to prepare a list of existing tree champions

6. Major topics for 4th March Committee meeting. The Bristol Tree Strategy Action Plan. In addition Stoke Lodge and BCC's interpretation of the law on TPOs.

6. Date and place of next meeting: Headley Park church 4th of March between 7.30 - 9.30pm