



Bristol Tree Forum Committee meeting Filwood Community Centre

19:00 - 21:00 2nd March 2020

Present: Mark Ashdown (chair), Peter Creed, Stephanie French, Sean Harding, Charles Ikediasi, Nikki Jones ([Avon Needs Trees](#)), Vassili Papastavrou (sec), Colin Palmer, Guy Robertson, Di Sheppard, Jim Smith (vice chair), John Tarlton, Chris Wallace.

1. Treasurer's Report: £6,000 in account following payment for the work undertaken with the Woodland Trust. All committee members should come to the next meeting with ideas for spending this money.
2. Avon Needs Trees - [presentation](#) and discussion by Nikki Jones. Nikki spoke about the role of trees in addressing the climate emergency, both to slow down flooding in the water catchment around Bristol and to contribute to sequestering CO². In addition trees provide public amenity and are important for biodiversity. Fundraising for the first purchase of 34 acres, near Chippenham is underway with £40,000 remaining to be raised. In discussion, the BTF strongly supports this initiative and considered some initial ideas for collaboration.
3. The BTF [Manifesto for Protecting Bristol's Existing Urban Forest](#) was drafted in order to focus on existing trees at a time when everyone else seems to be wanting to plant new trees. The idea was that the mayoral candidates could endorse the plan. Controversies regarding the removal of individual trees can be used to highlight shortcomings in the way that decisions regarding the removal of important existing trees are taken.
4. Guy Robertson introduced a draft paper on Developing a Strategic Approach for Doubling the Tree Canopy. Guy suggested that we involve other tree partners once the document has been developed further before taking it to a wider audience. The decision to double tree canopy in Bristol brings incredible opportunities. The Sustainability Board of the One City Plan will be a key arena. All committee members are invited to comment on the draft prior to the next committee meeting.
5. CO₂e and canopy cover deficit calculator. The Trees of Bristol website has a calculator which can be used to model canopy increase and CO₂ sequestration of new trees, when compared with the removal of an existing tree, which is usually chipped and used in biomass boilers. The deficit lag can be 50 years. This is work in progress and relies on allometric data of various qualities in research papers. Defra has just published its biodiversity net gain calculator to be used in the planning process. It was suggested that we try to look at a calculator for biodiversity deficit (e.g. wildlife corridors)
6. Trees of Bristol website - we will organise a training and discussion session.
7. Three meetings with senior BCC officers are coming up. Much of each of these meetings relate to the need for better liaison with Bristol City Council Officers and the retention of existing trees and we will report back.
8. Bristol Festival of Nature (6-7 June) and Open Doors. We will organise some tree walks for Open Doors and perhaps have some leaflets for the Festival of Nature. Jim Smith will take the lead.
9. AOB -
 - Ongoing tree disputes (M32 Maples). This has allowed some structural issues to be raised, given the strong local opposition to the felling of these TPOd trees. Clearly the importance of these trees (given the national and local media



- coverage) was not properly considered in the 2016 planning application. In addition, there is the question as to whether BCC actually owns the land on which the trees are growing.
- Collaboration with Civic Society on Planning Issues. We will look to improve collaboration where tree issues are highlighted.
 - Urban Tree Challenge Fund - successful bid (see [blog](#)). Most of the matched funding will be as voluntary work - see [Trees of Bristol](#) website.
 - We discussed a Bristol trees photo exhibition.

Ends - Vassili Papastavrou 3 March 2020