



## **Bristol Tree Forum Committee meeting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Present: Mark Ashdown (Chair), Stephanie French, Dougal Matthews, John Tarlton (Treasurer and substitute Secretary), Chris Wallace. Danica Priest, Angela Truell (Tree Champion), Simon Bishop (BBC Wildlife Magazine)

Apologies: Jim Smith (Vice Chair and TC Coordinator), Vassili Papastavrou (Secretary), Sean Harding.

### **1. Reports from Officers**

Treasurers report: John reported that there has been expenditure of £552 on trees for the annual Tree Giveaway, £100.80 on web costs and £150 on an ecology report. The current balance is £3561.98.

It was noted that we should be thinking about raising more capital. Dougal, Chris and John will look into linking PayPal to our account to facilitate donations.

Secretary's report: There was no Secretary's report due to the COVID related absence of the Secretary.

Chairs report: is mostly incorporated into the agenda items.

Mark met with Anthony Negus, who said he would like to return to active involvement with the Tree Forum.

Web Services Report: Chris is looking into developing a platform for supporting Tree Champions. Friends of the Earth has developed a new tree canopy survey, based on Environment Agency LIDAR data, which has Bristol at 14.2%. Chris is working with the BCC Research Department, which he regards highly.

Stephanie's Report: Stephanie and John will attend the Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge (FODAG) meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> March.

We discussed again how to help residents and Tree Champions to get TPOs for significant trees they are worried about. Stephanie is busy working on one such case with a resident who contacted the BTF through our website. There seems to be no set procedure for achieving this in Bristol. We do know about the score form that BCC uses, and we use it when advising residents on the subject.

### **2. Major planning issues**

Bristol Zoo: still pending.



Baltic Wharf: Development Committee A meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> March has been cancelled, and the hearing is now scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> April. There is a new, but largely unchanged, Flood Risk Assessment. John objected on the basis that the plan fails the Sequential Test and both arms of the Exception Test.

Station Road, Shirehampton: Mark and John attended the appeal hearing and contributed. We are still awaiting results. Stephanie has done a lot of background work for this.

Bristol Heat Network Local Development Order: Mark and others have contributed to this. Still awaiting outcome.

Metrobus on Spike Island: Developers are trying to have the condition to plant replacement trees amended to simply a contribution to S106. John has objected.

### **3. Brislington Meadows**

Mark has contributed to this throughout, and is making his final submission on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. Mark's contributions have been widely praised. Dougal made the point that we are now developing a body of knowledge which could be turned into some sort of forum.

### **4. Tree Champions engagement and projects**

Dougal reported that he is looking into organising events for Tree Champions. The facility to genetically analyse leaves is coming to an end, but Dougal has links that may allow us to continue using this.

Chris suggested that there was a need to develop the TC portal further. We need to have permission to name the TCs, perhaps with a BioPic. Chris recognises the need to engage more with TCs, perhaps coordinating with TfS. BTF members will suggest to Chris activities and engagements that might benefit this.

Dougal is looking to develop content for the TCs.

### **5. Trees for Streets BTF collaboration**

Dougal reported that Trees for Streets has planted 400 trees so far, but are lacking any branding. Jim and Dougal will help with this. TfS is trialling a new model for Crowd Funding trees.

### **6. Filwood/Hartcliffe Items**

Hartcliffe Way: Not discussed due to Jim's absence.

Proposal for a new banner: (see below)



Proposed Travellers Camp at Hartcliffe: Not discussed due to Jim's absence.

Can E Card be sent to Sean?: It was agreed this was an excellent idea. Dougal will look into this.

Trees Jim planted in Filwood Broadway must be moved: Not discussed due to Jim's absence.

Bonded Warehouse: Not discussed due to Jim's absence.

## **7. Tree Forum banners**

On behalf of Jim. Dougal asked that we have a new banner, with a more useful design; perhaps one completely new and one revamped. Dougal will look into this. Simon Bishop offered to help with the design. We should look for new sites for the banner(s), perhaps libraries, as the banner is needing to be moved from Filwood Library.

## **8. Festival of Nature (June 9-18):**

Jim has negotiated to have a BTF stand. Volunteers are needed.

## **9. Any Other Business**

BTF should engage more with Bristol Wildlife groups, particularly the Parks Group.

Dougal and Chris will look at a system for searching green spaces by postcodes.

Venue for next meeting: Rooms above the Nova Scotia and the Portculis in Clifton were suggested, each free of charge. Time and date TBC.