

Bristol Tree Forum: Planning Module 7 (updated August 2023)

Finding where the trees are: Tree Sponsorship: Getting new trees planted.

This is not just a planning issue, but the procedures you learn about here do have some overlap with negotiating your way around some Planning questions, and for some TCs it is all you really want to know about – how to get trees planted across the City.

This document is a replacement in August 2023. The method of sponsoring trees by individuals or businesses changed during 2022 and these “instructions” will guide you through the new method.

How to find where publicly owned trees are planted:

Most of the trees in Bristol are privately owned.

But some of those are in Conservation Areas or have TPOs and will thus be subject to Planning Laws via the Local Planning Authority (LPA) = Bristol City Council in our case.

Conservation Areas are mapped (KnowYourPlace and Pinpoint) and TPO trees are mapped by the Government, on OpenData. They are also mapped on BCC’s PinPoint (see below) and also on our sister site [Trees of Bristol](#).

Council owned trees are mapped. The mapping is not always up to date – but it is better than nothing. Those of us who do lots of Planning work and who are experienced at it, report to the Council via the “Report a Problem with a Tree” page where we detect wrong or missing information on the tree mapping.

The Council Trees are to be found in one of the two places I have described to you before when we learned about finding Bristol’s Conservation Areas.

They are on Bristol’s [Pinpoint mapping](#).

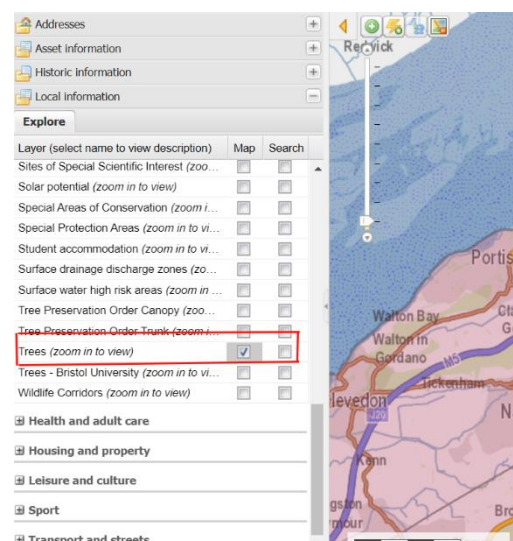
<https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/pinpoint/>

If you open the Pinpoint map and then go to the left-hand list/menu you will find “Environment and Planning”

If you click on that then a huge list drops down, fortunately in alphabetical order.

There are 4 Tree sections. The one we are looking at is “Trees (zoom in to view)”.

Click into the Map box, not the Search box.

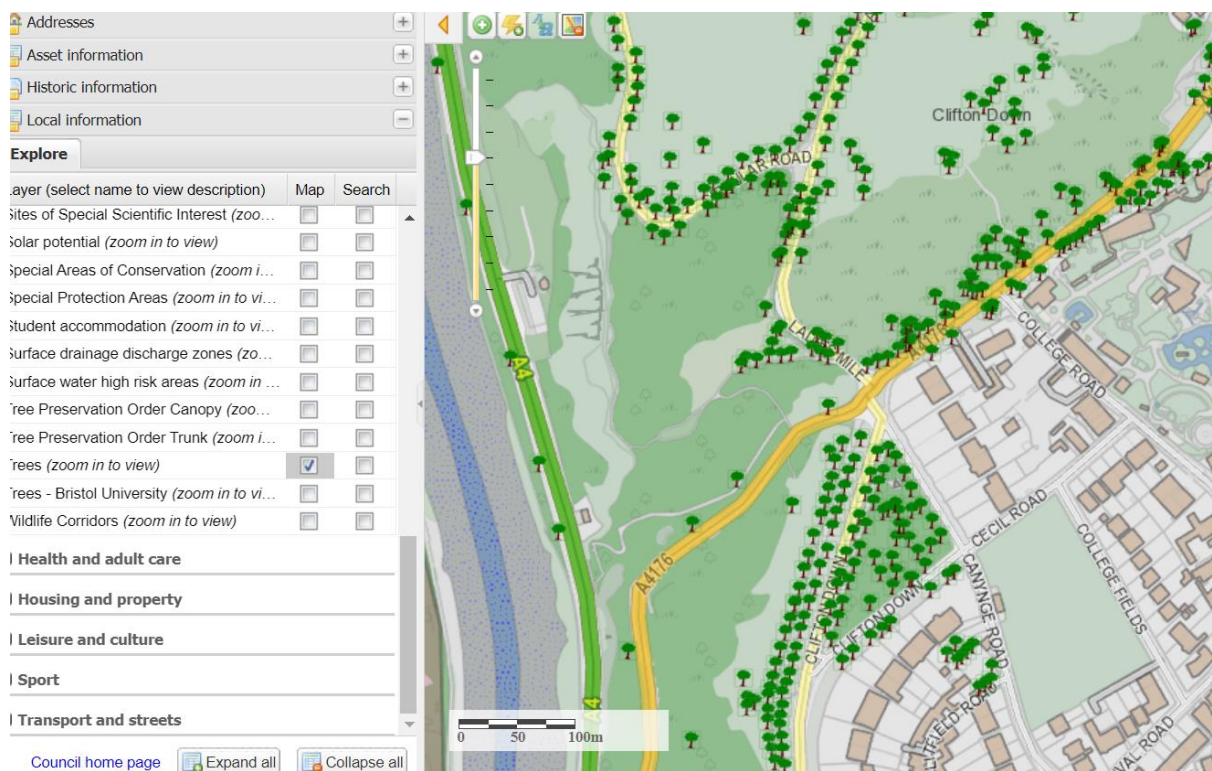


You then need to Zoom in on the area of the map you are interested in and be patient. It can be slow to work in office hours. Gradually the urban publicly owned forest will emerge.

Then you navigate to the area you want and you can get in to quite a high magnification. It is good fun!

(There are two versions of PinPoint. Council Officers use their own version. I do not know the technicalities of it, but sometimes the public version just won't load the info you want. I think it is a thing of the moment – too many Council Officers looking at the bit you want and possibly the server is too small to cope. Just go away and do something else, and return another time!)

You should find every single Street and Park tree indicated by little tree icons which appear on the map when you click the Trees map box. Looks crowded – but as you zoom in they separate and the locations of the tree sites become obvious.



Click on the tree icon and a small box opens with identification numbers of the TPL (Tree Planting Location), the species, its' size when last measured and its' site number.



The two numbers, Site Code and Plot Number are the most important identifiers, so if you are using the information for any purpose then note those numbers and the Street name or Park name.

When you click on another tree icon the first opened box will eventually disappear – but slowly. So, to aid your work close each tree’s info box with the x in the top RH corner of the box.

You can learn about the species of tree using this mapping. That might help with a resident’s query to you, or help you if you are trying to get replacement trees nearby.

Bristol Tree Officers do know which trees, and which varieties of a tree species, grow in Bristol’s climate and conditions. Wild fancies of exotic delicate trees will not get the OK even if you have found some sponsorship money. BCC also tries to maintain similar trees in similar areas. If there are 12 tree pits in a road and 10 of them have Silver Birch and your efforts are replacing 2 trees in vacant pits – then the replacements are likely to be Silver Birch. If a whole area or street is being re’treed then the piper who is paying has more of a say. But huge London Planes do not get planted in small cul de sacs, and trees needing annual pruning of major side branches do not get planted on bus routes.

Where does the money come from?

Most Street Tree/Green Space Tree/Park Tree funding for replacement trees comes from Section 106 (aka Unilateral Undertaking) funds. These pots of money arise when a developer fells tree developing a site, or a householder fells trees to enlarge his house, build another house in his large garden, or park his car, and the developer etc, cannot plant the replacement trees that he is obliged to provide on the site he is developing.

The Bristol Tree Replacement Standard comes into force. (I described the BTRS to you in the Planning Module on Bristol's Development Policies. For those of you not on the Planning Course the link to it is in the Tree Champion Advice Document, at the end.)

If the developer can only plant 3 of a required 6 trees on site, then he pays for the replacement trees to be planted on public land nearby.

This sum of money is kept Area by Area - Bristol's Area Map to be found here:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/files/documents/753-area-committee-map/file>

and the pot is distributed annually through a series of meetings of the Councillors for each Area. s106 Tree money can only be spent on Trees so there is little arguing. You can help by finding how much money your Area has using this BCC website page:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/council-spending-performance/section-106-money>

navigating your way to your Area Committees page. eg.

[**Area Committee 2 Section 106 monies held**](#) (this is not a link)

Clicking on that to find the Table:

(example is current Area Committee 2)

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/files/documents/4773-area-committee-2-section-106/file>

This Table does not copy and maintain formatting, so to look at what I am saying you will need to open the document on line, or print it. I insert a screenshot at the end.

Find the name "Richard Ennion" in Column 2, as he is the Service Manager responsible for Tree s106 monies.

If you were so minded you could help your Councillors here – with whom the ultimate responsibility for the choice lies – to find sites for replacement trees within a mile of the development that gave rise to the s106 payment.

You would find the sites by looking at the Tree Sponsorship page on the Trees for Streets page (We are coming to that in a minute!). Tree Sponsorship sites are available for private residents and corporate sponsors, and for s106 money allocated by Councillors. They are the sites that once had a tree in them, and they will recently have been checked for Services (cable TV, Sewers, Water). As they once had a tree in them then no consultation has to be done before another tree can be planted.

Sometimes you find that there is no tree money. Sometimes you find that there might be Tree money – but then you find in Column 4 that the money has already been allocated at the last Area Committee meeting – so there is no "fresh/unspent" money for you.

These tables of money available/allocated are updated monthly. There may however be a lag.

[Get a New Tree in an existing tree site \(Replacement\) or get a New Tree in a New Site:](#)

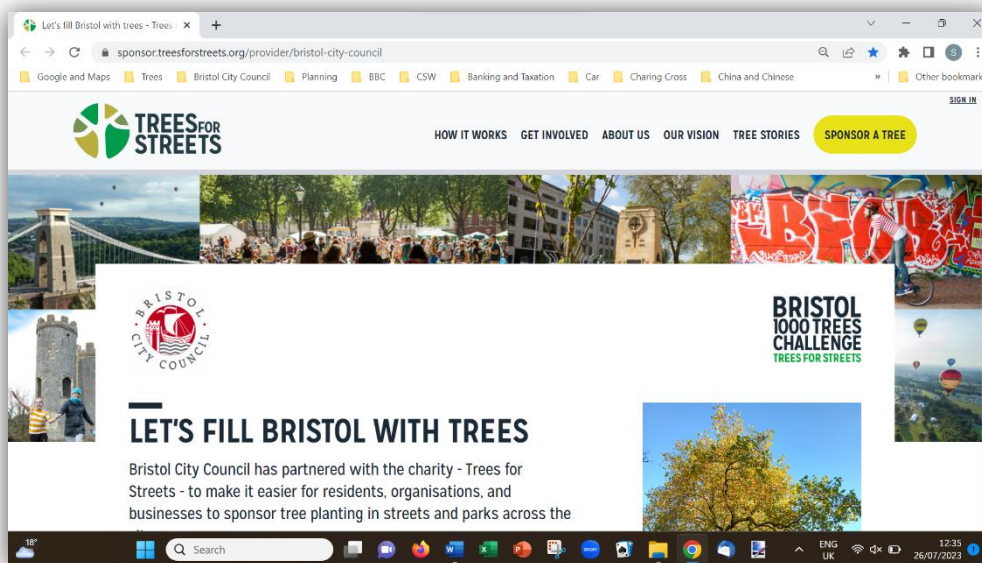
Tree Sponsorship

Bristol Council has in the last couple of years partnered with a Charity and completely changed the way it manages the sponsorship of replacement trees in existing sites, or the sponsorship of new trees in new sites.

[Trees for Streets](#) This website has all the information and all the links you will need to complete your task or give advice to others.

It is possible to sponsor a tree privately, or for a business or a group of people (residents in one street for example) to club together and sponsor the planting of a tree.

People sponsor trees privately to mark special occasions, as an “in memoriam” tree is the most frequent. But some residents experience a disease or age wipe-out of all or many of the trees in their street, and club together to replace as many trees as they can afford.



The cost of a privately sponsored tree, or a corporately sponsored tree, going into an already existing tree planting location, e.g, a vacant Street Tree pit – which may or may not have a Stump in it – is (only) £295, or even less if the sponsor undertakes to water the tree in its early years. The rationale for this lower price for “private” sponsorship is that the site is already being maintained as a tree by the Council – but really is priced to encourage sponsorship, as the going rate for Developers is too much for individuals or small groups.

GET STARTED TODAY - SELECT YOUR SCHEME

SPONSOR A STREET TREE IN BRISTOL
Sponsor a tree to be planted in a pre-approved location, or suggest a location in your neighbourhood.

SELECT THIS SCHEME

SPONSOR A TREE IN A BRISTOL PARK
Sponsor a celebration tree in one of Bristol's parks to mark an occasion, such as a marriage, birth or birthday, or in memory of a loved one.

SELECT THIS SCHEME

You start off by selecting the scheme you want – Street or Park – and then follow the cascade of screens and questions. I have helped several people with this and it is quite straightforward.

***** Our Sister website – Bristol Trees – contains many [links for Tree Champions](#) to help them with their role in their local area and across Bristol. One section in particular that you might want to look at with regard to Tree Sponsorship is in that section, under “Tree Planting”.**

Some questions:

Can I help with the allocation of Tree s106 money in my Area to get trees planted where they are needed and where people want them?

The answer is –“Yes if you want to”.

You will need to:

1. Introduce yourself to your local Councillors and say you can help.
2. Become familiar with the Trees for Bristol website to find out where, in your Area/Ward, the available tree sites are.
3. Find how much money, if any, your Area has and work out how many trees that might pay for at the going rate.
4. Contact NeighbourhoodsAndCommunities@bristol.gov.uk to declare your interest and be included in the group they will contact when the bidding round starts each year.

Councillors usually value local opinion and assistance, so if you can help – starting in February each year – then speak up.

The decision meeting is in July each year.

The tree planting season is November 1st to March 31st.

Why do I see stumps of trees in our streets?

Q. Why are stumps left behind in tree planting locations when the tree has been taken away?

A. So that the location for planting a replacement tree some time is preserved. You would be surprised just how many empty tree planting locations have had water meters put in them, or get incorporated into the entrances to drives, or have a lamp standard put in them. Yes, they are ugly – but it is better to keep them as a potential site for a tree in the future.