



ARBORICULTURAL WORKING GROUP – MINUTES

Planning & Regeneration Services

including Building Consultancy

Wed 20th June 2018

4.00pm-5.30pm Planning Meeting Room

ATTENDEES	
<p>Internal Attendees - Borough of Poole: Richard Genge (RTG) - Development Services Manager - CHAIR Andy Osborne - (AO) – Senior Arboricultural Officer (Planning) Gabriella Cobelli (GC) – Business Support / PA to Julian McLaughlin</p>	
<p>External Attendees: Andy Scott (AS) – Scott Tree Services Mark Hinsley (MH) - Mark Hinsley Arboricultural Consultants Steve Cox (SC) - Tree Call Consulting Jeremy Barrell (JB) - Barrell Tree Consulting</p>	
APOLOGIES	
<p>Internal: Trevor Maynard (TM) – Arboricultural Officer (Environmental Services) James Roberts (JR) – Arboricultural Officer</p> <p>External: Martin Saxon (MS) - Apex Tree Surgeons</p>	
AGENDA ITEMS	ACTION
<p>1. <u>Minutes of the last Regular Arb WG Meeting in Jan 2018</u> Parts of the minutes were raised in the meeting as topics of discussion. <u>Comparison between the TWAP appeal data for 2017 and 2016</u> AO felt it would make sense to bring this back to the next meeting in Nov 2018, this would provide a better sense check. Action: GC to add to the next agenda for November.</p>	GC
<p>2. <u>New Group Terms of Reference</u> The current TOR is as follows: <i>“To work together in the best interests of Poole to ensure that the community and the Borough of Poole achieve the best quality for sustainable development and green infrastructure outcomes in an open and transparent way”.</i> Attendees agreed that following the wording “open and transparent way” we needed to add the wording “and to share best practice”.</p>	Note for all
<p>3. <u>Best Practice for LGR</u> RTG opened up discussions to find out from the members and other internal officers how we could work together to improve on efficiencies as we approach LGR. 5% of the Tree Team workload is desk topped though we now have a full team comprising of Harry Doe and Heather Dring who work 4 days per week and 1 day per week respectively.</p> <p>That said, we will need to find some kind of mechanism of addressing the work whilst improving efficiencies. Various suggestions were put forward e.g. reviewing procedures and protocol for minor tree works for trees of 20-30cm in diameter - easy to mitigate if something were to go wrong as the BoP could demand a replant, though if the trees were BoP stock, then these would be treated differently. Thought is also needed on whether works can be carried out on trees with TPOs i.e. if it is a legal or common nuisance, and similarly if the</p>	

<p>tree is a hazard to property or people. In conclusion it was felt that there should be certain works that residents should be permitted to do without any formal consent.</p> <p>RTG then circulated the TPO and TWAP Information Sheet from Oct 2014 plus a copy of the Tree Decision Notice and the application form which were discussed. There was the question on how harmful in real terms was crown lifting/thinning and canopy raising - could this be raised to 5M? The Tree team agreed that this is something that needs discussing further.</p> <p>A Tree Strategy was also suggested - this is on the internal team's "to do" list but not recently possible due to resource. There may however, be increased pressure from Central Government to have this in place as a result of the tree felling incidents in Sheffield. We do have a Tree Management Policy currently on the web but this dates back to 2010 and originally produced by Leisure Services. This unit has since dissolved. James Roberts may be able to assist once he finishes his studies.</p> <p><u>Tree Wardening Proposals</u> This was raised by AO at the last meeting as part of the regular meeting in Jan 2018 - the team are still keen to explore how this could work in practice with the new authority.</p> <p><u>Current Tree Work Decision Notices with Advice Note and 3 Day Notification of Tree Work Forms.</u> Copies of the above forms were circulated to those present. Various comments were put forth, one of which was that the decision date needs to be on the front of the form so it is clearer and that the application is not electronically attached to the decision notice and also the form does not autofill - something that the team can look at as we go into LGR.</p> <p>The BoP normally notify the agent on decisions though there have been issues where the agent has not told the applicant which can create issues, however, the decision notices are posted online. Unaccompanied TWAP visits were also suggested, saving appointment making time.</p> <p>Action: RTG asked those present for any ideas on how the internal team can improve best practice or procedures - please send suggestions to Richard Genge and Andy Osborne at r.genge@poole.gov.uk / a.osborne@poole.gov.uk.</p>	<p>Note RTG / AO</p> <p>Note for AO</p> <p>Note RTG/ AO</p> <p>Note AO/RTG</p> <p>All</p>
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4.	<p><u>AOB</u> <u>Trees and Planning Applications</u> There was a discussion about developers giving consideration to trees on a particular site as part of the planning application process in order that their application may be approved more quickly to avoid delay and frustration on all sides. JB confirmed that he had some information which may assist with this process. Action: JB to forward details to RTG.</p> <p><u>Appeal Data</u> MH saw a recent publication of information which stated that Bmth, Poole, Christchurch and New Forest have an unusually high rate of appeals - the team think it is partly due to the development occurring in the area and also that Poole have a number of TPOs. <i>(Post meeting note: AO is liaising with Andy Wellington to check this with PINNS and to also obtain some stats).</i></p> <p><u>Validation Checklist</u> The internal team are looking at the consistency of the validation checklist across all three authorities and this was raised and discussed briefly. Action: JB confirmed that he is willing to put something together as a starting point. Any other suggestions from the working group would be welcomed.</p>	<p>JB</p> <p>Note for AO for the next meeting</p> <p>JB/ All</p>
<p><u>Date of Next Meeting:</u> Wed 14th November 2018 4.00pm-5.30pm - Planning Meeting Room</p>		