



ARBORICULTURAL WORKING GROUP – MINUTES
Planning & Regeneration Services including Building Consultancy
Wed 8th Jan 2014
2.00pm - 4.30pm – Cattistock Room Civic Centre

ATTENDEES:

Borough of Poole - Planning and Regeneration inc Building Consultancy:

Richard Genge - (RTG) (*chair*) – Planning and Regeneration Manager
 Gabriella Cobelli (GC) (*minutes*) – Business Support and PA to Stephen Thorne
 Sue Ludwig (SPL) – Business Manager
 Rory Gogan – (RG) Arboricultural Officer
 Adam Cooper – (AC) – Assistant Arboricultural Officer
 Russ Fisher - (RF) - Senior Arboricultural Officer

Borough of Poole - Environmental and Consumer Protection:

Andy Osborne - (AO) Senior Arboricultural Officer

External Attendees:

Martin Saxon (MSX) - Apex Tree Surgeons
 Mark Hinsley (MH) - Mark Hinsley Arboricultural Consultants
 Steve Cox (SC) - Tree Call Consulting
 Jonathon Fulcher (JF) - Alderwood Consulting Ltd
 Wayne Doe (WD) - W.T.Doe Tree Surgeon Ltd
 Andrew Scott (AS) - Scott Tree Services

APOLOGIES:

Borough of Poole

Stephen Thorne (ST) - Head of
 Planning and Regeneration
 Services inc Building Consultancy

External

Steve Jones (SJ) – Aborcare
 Phil Brophy (PB) - Barrell Tree Consultancy
 Andy Luddington (AL) - Tree Call Consulting

Agenda Items

Action:

1. Introduction and Minutes of the Meeting of 15th October 2013

1.1 Introduction

RTG began by relaying ST's apologies and advising that Karl Forkasiewicz had stepped down from group membership. A brief discussion took place regarding new membership, as a refresh occurs every two years. This will be on the agenda for the Arboricultural and Agents and Developers AGM on 26th March 2014 as the ideal mix would be a balance between of consultants and surgeons.

Action: Attendees to email RTG in the meantime with nominations of anyone wishing to become regular members at r.genge@poole.gov.uk.

It was also agreed to invite Richard Nicholson on an ad hoc basis, depending on agenda items as he is working on green space development.

All

Note for RTG/GC

1.2 Item 1.5 in Oct Minutes - Decision Notices

Nothing as yet received from RTG. **Action: MH advised that he had one that he would like RTG to look at and will send it through.**

MH

1.3 Item 1.6 in October Minutes - Customer Services

AS did a training session with Customer Services prior to today's meeting. AS has agreed to hold some more sessions with P&RG's Business Support Team. These will be held on 21st and 23rd Jan 2014. **Action: Attendees to feedback next time following training sessions with comments.**

All

1.4 Item 2 in October Minutes – Crown Reduction and Thinning

Originally raised by MSX. The action was for MSX or anyone else to send over examples which would better describe crown thinning. **Action: MSX advised he**

<p>1.5</p> <p>1.6</p>	<p>would send this through to the group - to be covered either in the regular meeting following the AGM on 26th March 2013.</p> <p>- Part of item 3 on Tree Guidance Note in Oct Minutes - recommendation of <u>Tree Species Document</u></p> <p>This is on the agenda – see below.</p> <p>Bio Security</p> <p>The action was for RF to add a footnote to decision notices with a link to the action plan from The Forestry Commission and DEFRA published in October 2011. This is in progress. Action: RTG to report back to the next regular Arboricultural Working Group Meeting.</p>	<p>MSX</p> <p>RTG</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p><u>Tree Work Applications from a PINS Perspective - presentation by Jonathon Fulcher</u></p> <p>JF gave a very useful presentation explaining the above, which prompted a lively discussion and debate. Key points that were raised were as follows:-</p> <p><u>There are 10 inspectors in England</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The training is intense and includes lots of guidance • Decisions are 10% quality control checked • The applicant has options on how an appeal is managed - most are fast tracked. • The BoP is amongst the top local authorities in terms of good application management processes as the guidance provided is useful. • Generally there needs to be clear evidence as to why a TWA is being made - this makes it easier for the inspectorate to make a more satisfactory decision. • The Inspector will generally take a broader view if the full evidence within the application is there. • If no evidence is provided, appeals are likely to be refused. 	
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Guidance Note of Appropriate Trees</u></p> <p>This was raised in both the July 2013 and the meeting dated 15th October 2013. Attendees were invited to build upon the document which SC kindly put together. There has been no feedback received so far by GC or RTG, though AS advised that he has compiled some suggestions.</p> <p>Action: AS will submit this prior to the next regular Arboricultural meeting after the AGM on 26th March 2013. (Likely to be in July 2014 - this will be confirmed).</p>	<p>AS</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Supervision Orders for Protocol for Condition</u></p> <p>There was a general discussion about Supervision Orders in the July meeting and it was agreed that these should be used under special circumstances only and that good evidence should negate this need. Various points again were raised but the group reached the same agreement as previous i.e. that the supervision orders will only be used in exceptional circumstances as this is not the best use of officer time.</p>	<p>Note</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>AGM Focus</u></p> <p>RTG asked the group who would like to put together a summary presentation of the key points raised from meetings during the past year. Action: MH has kindly offered to compile a presentation for the meeting.</p>	<p>MH</p>
<p>6.</p> <p>6.1</p>	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p><u>Reasons for Refusal of Works</u></p> <p>MSX asked if the wording “poor arboricultural practice” wording be removed as he felt this was damaging to their professionalism, or can we possibly review the wording. Action: RTG agreed to look at the wording though the BoP does quantify the reasons in the majority of cases.</p> <p>Action: If any of the group has any examples where reasons for refusal does state “poor arboricultural practice “please let us know.</p>	<p>RTG/RF</p> <p>All</p>

<p>6.2</p> <p>6.3</p> <p>6.4</p> <p>6.5</p>	<p><u>Tree Preservation Order copies</u> SPL confirmed that these are in the process of being scanned so in future the unit will be able to email copies (as at the moment there is a charge of 50p per copy should a contractor/consultant require one). They will eventually all be uploaded onto the website though this is work in progress.</p> <p><u>Future Arboricultural Meetings</u> The group discussed possibly inviting other local authorities to share ideas show them though it was accepted that a careful balance of attendees is required.</p> <p><u>AGM Focus – Items for Discussion</u> MH suggested a discussion based around Arboricultural Supervision Conditions for Planning Applications. Action: It was suggested Nick Hayden from East Dorset attended the next Arboricultural Working Group (date to be confirmed). GC or RTG to make initial contact.</p> <p><u>Change of Timing for future Arboricultural Working Groups</u> It was agreed that a 4.00pm start would be better for future Arboricultural Working Group Meetings. Action: GC to arrange.</p>	<p>Note</p> <p>RTG/GC</p> <p>GC</p>
<p><u>Date of Next Meeting:</u> The Agents and Developers and Arboricultural AGM on Wed 26th March 2014 6.00pm-9.00pm – Committee Suite – Civic Centre</p>		