



ARBORICULTURAL WORKING GROUP – MINUTES
Planning & Regeneration Services including Building Consultancy
Tues 15th Oct 2013
2.00pm - 4.30pm – Room 133

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
 Karl Forkasiewicz (KJF) – KJF Consultancy Ltd

APOLOGIES:

Borough of Poole

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

External

Jonathon Fulcher (JF) - Alderwood Consulting Ltd
 Wayne Doe (WD) - W.T.Doe Tree Surgeon Ltd
 Steve Jones (SJ) – Aborcare
 Phil Brophy (PB) - Barrell Tree Consultancy
 Andy Luddington (AL) - Tree Call Consulting
 Andrew Scott (AS) - Scott Tree Services

Agenda Items

Action:

- 1. Introduction and Minutes of the Meeting of 8th July 2013**
- 1.1 Building Control Overriding Method Statements**
 This has been completed as the Tree Team now receive a copy of the Daily Commencement List.
- 1.2 Guidance on Tree Species Appropriate to an Urban Setting**
 This is on the agenda.
- 1.3 Tree Work Application Information Sheet**
 This is on the agenda under Crown Reduction and Thinning. SPL has contacted JF, who has agreed to present Tree Work Applications from a PINS perspective at the meeting in Jan 2014.
- 1.4 Supervision Orders and Five Day Notice**
 Supervision Orders and Protocol for Condition is on the agenda for 8th Jan 2014. An email notification of Tree Works can be forwarded to the unit up to three days before work commences hence, Green Cards have been changed to reflect this.
- 1.5 AOB - Decision Notices**
 Ongoing action, though to date RTG has not received anything from the Group to upload onto the website. **Action: RTG advised the group as a reminder to share anything useful be it positive or negative.**
- 1.6 Customer Services and Tree Issues plus Website Issues**
 Andy Scott was not present at the meeting though SPL spoke to Customer Services and they would welcome some training on tree issues. Also AS advised at the last meeting that the web site was very slow. SPL spoke to the GIS team

**All
 (ongoing
 action)**

	and they are looking at the site but any major improvement would be very costly. Action: SPL to go back to AS to clarify website issues and to follow up training with Customer Services.	SPL
2.	<u>Crown Reduction and Thinning</u> MSX outlined what he felt were recurring issues with the Council's interpretation on crown reduction and thinning and, whilst it is not always the best solution in some circumstances, some flexibility would help with client relations (without affecting public amenity), and that a certain element of trust would be welcomed. RTG raised issues around what was meant by crown thinning and how this could be measured. A discussion followed, and suggestions on how crown thinning would be measured were made such as percentage, diameter of branches and before and after photographs. Action: RTG suggested MSX and anyone present send relevant successful examples which would better describe crown thinning to GC, to be brought back to the meeting on 8th Jan 2014.	MSX/All
3.	<u>Tree Guidance Note (please also refer to item 4 in July minutes) - raised by Richard Genge</u> In the July 2013 meeting the Group were asked for nominations of tree species reflecting the character of a particular area of Poole. SC circulated a document titled Recommendation of Tree Species which he compiled detailing suggestions for small medium and large species to be planted within specific BoP areas. Comments were put forth i.e. consideration is needed in relation to flooding areas, soil types as well as area character, highlighting the need for a tree survey. The key issue is the future of the landscape. RTG suggested documenting the predominant trees in areas as a quick win rather than a full audit. Also Street Scene is doing a survey of the street trees in the interest of disease and defects, but only those that are damaged have been plotted. It was felt by those present that SC's document was a foundation to build upon. RTG advised this would act as one facet of an eventual Tree Strategy which will need input from both the private and public sector. This will probably involve meeting regularly to put this together, though acknowledged this was much further down the line. Action: The Recommendation of Tree Species document will be circulated to the Group with the minutes. Attendees are invited to build upon what SC has started by making added suggestions. This will be brought back to the next meeting on 8th Jan 2014.	All
4.	<u>Invasive Investigative Methods and Resistograph Use – raised by Karl Forkasiewicz</u> This was raised in the meeting of 30 th Jan 2013 and agreed that resistographs can be used without needing an application but as a last resort and only to establish a tree's decay. KJF has raised this since the meeting as the TWA information sheet on the website had not initially been updated to reflect this decision and, in addition, he expressed concern that there was no reference to invasive investigation methods, and wondered whether increment borers could also be used without the fear of prosecution. A guidance sheet has since been produced by the team and was circulated and discussed amongst the group. The guidance is clarification that use of both tools is permitted but only in the case of obvious existing tree damage, and must be cross referenced against the Visual Tree Assessment information sheet. RF alerted attendees to the reference on the back page of the guidance note (K. Weber, C Mattheck – The effects of excessive drilling diagnosis on decay propagation in tree) and explained this was worth a read.	Note for All

5.	<p><u>Bio Security - Mark Hinsley</u></p> <p>MH is very concerned that plants are being imported into Europe from Asia. Concerns are that as soon as the plants reach Europe they are classified as European plants. This gives rise to potential diseases e.g. Acute Oak Decline (AOD) and Longhorn Beetle amongst others; hence, this is a real threat to UK trees.</p> <p>There seems to be no government directive to control this threat though MH is suggesting that there should be an insistence on UK stock in order to encourage nurseries to stock it. The general feeling was this was a good idea, though some were unsure in terms of how this would affect those nurseries who are involved with affiliated foreign companies. Various comments were put forth such as how stock could be guaranteed to be from the UK, and whether the industry should be challenging nurseries. Perhaps this could be lead by the Arboricultural Association, who could lobby the government in parallel to this. It was recognised, however, that this cannot be enforced, and consumer power is required. MSX felt that it was about making ordinary people aware of the issue.</p> <p>The Forestry Commission and DEFRA have produced a Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Action Plan Published 18th October 2011.</p> <p>See link for details:- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tree-health-and-plant-biosecurity-action-plan</p> <p>Action: It was suggested that Tree Team arrange for a footnote to be added to decision notices with a link to the Action Plan above to improve awareness.</p>	RF
6.	<p><u>Guidance of Appropriate Trees</u></p> <p>Covered in Item 3.</p>	
7.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>KJF expressed appreciation of the assistance provided by RG and AC during a site visit at The Avenue where a cedar tree needed felling.</p>	
<p><u>Date of Next Meeting:</u> Wed 8th January 2014 – 2.00pm-4.30pm – Cattistock Room – Civic Centre</p>		