



ARBORICULTURAL WORKING GROUP – MINUTES
Planning & Regeneration Services including Building Consultancy
Wed 30th Jan 2013
2.00pm-4.30pm – Room 134

ATTENDEES:	
<p><u>Borough of Poole:</u> Richard Genge - (RTG) (<i>chair</i>) Sue Ludwig - (SPL) Gabriella Cobelli - (GC) (<i>minutes</i>) Russ Fisher - (RF) Andy Osborne - (AO)</p>	<p><u>External Attendees:</u> Jonathon Fulcher (JF) - Alderwood Consulting Ltd Martin Saxon (MSX) - Apex Tree Surgeons Mark Wadey (MW) - Barrell Tree Consultancy Karl Forkasiewicz (KJF) – KJF Tree & Landscape Consultancy Mark Hinsley (MHi) - Mark Hinsley Arboricultural Consultants Andrew Scott (AS) - Scott Tree Services Jane Cox (JC) - Tree Call Consulting</p> <p><u>Guests:</u> Sue (SW) and Graham Whitehall (GW)</p>
APOLOGIES:	
<p>Borough of Poole Stephen Thorne (ST) Andy Dearing (AD)</p>	<p>External Wayne Doe (WD) - W.T.Doe Tree Surgeon Ltd Mark Hunter (MH) – Hunters Treework Steve Jones (SJ) - Arborcare</p>
Agenda Items	Action:
<p>1. <u>Introduction and Minutes of the Last Meeting</u></p> <p>1.1 <u>Terms of Reference</u> Action: RTG is in the process of putting this together and will email this out on completion.</p> <p>1.2 <u>Twitter page Communication Channel</u> SPL confirmed that this was discussed but someone has to manage the Twitter page and asked what the best short term fix was. Action: It was agreed that both local and other appeal decisions could be published in the same area as the minutes to the Group. All appeal decisions that the Group wish to be published should be emailed to GC at gabriella.cobelli@poole.gov.uk</p> <p>1.3 <u>AGM</u> IT was recognised that there is an AGM in March (with the Agents and Developer attendees) which is an opportunity to refresh the Group’s format and for new attendees to come to the meeting. Action: SPL or GC will email the Group with further detail in due course.</p> <p>1.4 <u>Supervision Orders</u> RTG recognises that there is a need for these to be more flexible. Action: RTG will roll this over to the next meeting though assured the Group that this had not been forgotten. KJF mentioned a specific issue which related to a supervision order. Action: KJF will email the details to RF for the unit to investigate further. There was a discussion that took place around the issue of five days notice to which RTG added that there is a difference between exempt works and a five day notice where a condition had been applied to a TWAP. Action: Agreement for RF to review the timescale of notice and bring a report back to the group.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RTG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All/GC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPL/GC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RTG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KJF/RF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RF</p>

	Action: It was recognised by SPL that the scripting notice for Customer Services may need reviewing to avoid any future confusion or misunderstanding regarding Tree Supervision Orders.	SPL Long Term Action
2.	<p><u>Recent Successful Prosecution - Richard Genge /Russ Fisher</u></p> <p>RF updated the Group with events leading up to the prosecution. A resident was convicted for instructing his tree surgeon friend to fell his neighbour's tree to improve the view from his property. The resident in question was fined £50,000 to cover the value added to his property following the tree felling. He was also fined a further £75,000. £14,500 of the total costs will go to the Borough of Poole, with some of it going to the Home Office and the Police. The tree surgeon was fined £2,500. The resident also has to pay his neighbour's victim a surcharge of £15 though the duty to replace the tree lies with the neighbour, though they may be able to take private action against the resident for instructing his friend to fell the tree unlawfully.</p> <p>It was recognised that all those involved had worked well and hopefully this will act as a deterrent. It was suggested putting an article together for the Arb Association in order to learn and share from this eventuality. RTG agreed with the principle, though due to resources being very tight this can not be guaranteed.</p>	Note
3.	<p><u>Consultation on "Sensible Tree Management" – Susan Whitehall / Richard Genge</u></p> <p>A report went to ECOS on 24th Jan 2013, and RTG explained that both the A&D and the CWG have been made aware of this campaign. SW then read out The Petition details to the Group.</p> <p>Those who have signed up to the Campaign want a change in legislation. It was recognised that the Council wish to preserve trees and that applications need to comply with practices. That said, the petitioners felt that too much emphasis was on the amenity value of a given tree and not enough on the welfare of the owner/occupier, particularly following the recent harsh weather. The campaign calls for owners to manage the trees and to be more included in the process. Moreover, if there are robust restrictions on tree management, this will impact on views from a dwelling, which may potentially devalue a property. Discussion amongst Group members included what actually constitutes as a risk, as a perception of risk varies between individuals, and it was recognised that individuals' perception of trees on the horizon in terms of a nuisance differs from those who have the trees in the back garden.</p> <p>Action: It was agreed that to allow all views to be formed and the content of this petition would be attached to the minutes and a period, or 28 days, allowed for group members to comment. Those comments would be reported in due course in evaluating and responding fully to the petition. NB:- Any comments should be forwarded to Richard Genge.</p> <p>Discussion continued and Issues were raised by some attendees about the BoP approach with regards to pruning and thinning parallel to BS 3988 standards (see item 7). AO commented that trees naturally grow and then prune themselves and there is the potential that if the Policy becomes too relaxed, that pruning and cutting down will damage the tree long term as it may become infected, and could be a safety issue.</p> <p>RTG confirmed that Poole are not unique in their Tree Management Policy though accepts that this would be an opportunity to engage and discuss the matter further. Obtaining a Strategic Overview would be a good step.</p>	RTG
4.	<p><u>Tree Wardens (raised by Phil Brophy in October's meeting – item 9.2 in minutes)</u></p> <p>Depending on the outcome of the AGM this will be carried forward to the next ARB Meeting (following the AGM on 6th March 2013). Action:- This is likely to be in July, though GC will confirm forthcoming dates in due course.</p>	GC

5.	<p><u>Review of BoP Policy on Resistograph Use in Gathering Evidence – Andy Scott</u></p> <p>AS raised this issue as the consensus is that resistograph use will damage trees and feels that more evidence to support this is required, and whether the BoP has given thought about changing the policy, as a letter was previously sent out to Group members advising them to apply if they wish to use a resistograph. RF advised that generally the BoP use visual inspection to gauge a tree's health and would be concerned if resistographs are the only means by consultants to gauge a fault with a tree. After much discussion it was agreed that an application to use a resistograph will not be required but it must be used as a last resort, and only to demonstrate the extent of decay in a tree.</p>	Note
6.	<p><u>Green Cards – Andy Scott</u></p> <p>This related to the five day notice, as AS feels the issue of green cards means there is no flexibility should circumstances change. This was discussed amongst the Group. A green card's purpose is so that the application, once received, can be diarised. It was suggested that an email could be sent to planning@poole.gov.uk though not everyone has access to the internet. The idea behind the 5 day notice was to allow two days for postal delay so therefore potentially it's a 3 day notice. A telephone call to the unit would suffice if things change.</p> <p>Action: RTG agreed to look at this further with RF with a view to bringing it back to the next Arb Meeting (following the ARB and A&D AGM) (also refer to action in item 4) – likely to be July.</p>	RTG/RF
7.	<p><u>Determining Applications and Use of BS 3998 - Andy Scott</u></p> <p><u>The Understanding of Thinning and 87 Reduction Works – Martin Saxon</u></p> <p>The above items were raised within the mix of discussions about the Tree petition. The BoP position is such that, whilst being very aware of BS 3998 guidelines, every application should adequately describe the extent of works required, and justified by the evidence submitted. As a general rule tree thinning and crowning is not precise.</p>	
8.	<p><u>TRN's Update - Richard Genge</u></p> <p>RF confirmed that there are half a dozen outstanding from the backlog. TRNs are not usually served unless it is in connection with enforcement. The tree species has to be agreed with the Borough before planting. The general sense from the public is that they are happy to replace trees when requested. There was a discussion on what species of tree to plant that would be right for the environment, and whether the replacement tree type and location should be through negotiation.</p>	
9. 9.1 9.2	<p><u>AOB - Richard Genge</u></p> <p><u>AGM</u></p> <p>The A&D and ARB AGM are on 6th March at 6.00pm and will be held in the Cattistock Room in the Civic Centre.</p> <p><u>Staff within the Tree Team</u></p> <p>RTG announced that a new Arboricultural officer, Rory Gogan will be starting on 25th Feb, and also Adam Cooper has been appointed as an Arb Assistant, thus, there will be a much faster turnaround of work than previously which is positive news.</p>	
<p><u>Date of Next Meeting: To be confirmed</u></p>		