

Delivering a Partnership Street Tree Strategy for Sheffield

DRAFT NOTES AND ACTIONS

Meeting 3: Friday 31st July 2020

Attending

Chair: Liz Ballard, Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust (LB)

Christine King, Co-Chair of Street Tree Action Groups (CK)

Darren Butt, Amey (DB)

Karen Ramsay, Sheffield City Council (KR)

Paul Selby, Street Tree Action Groups (PS)

Andy Greenwood, Amey (AG)

Joe Coles (JC) Woodland Trust

Sarah Shorley (SS) Woodland Trust – on furlough

Apologies:

Mick Croft, Sheffield City Council (MC)

Welcome

LB thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting and noted the apologies received.

LB noted that the minutes had been circulated some time in advance and so it was assumed that everyone was happy with the minutes. All agreed.

The minutes will be uploaded to the SRWT website.

1. Actions & Decisions from 26th June 2020 minutes

DB/PS Matrix test - to be discussed later in the meeting on the action plan

Action: LB to circulate the email from AG around the working strategy after this meeting

Action: AG to incorporate his responses into the consultation

Action: ALL to add into Stakeholder List over the next two weeks ie by 20th August

Matters arising

AG, Sheffield Tree Map, an opportunity to develop a community project to create a tree map independently to Amey & SCC, making trees accessible to all. It will need permission from DB to update the data, as it is out of date already. The mapping and measurement of trees weren't feeding back in to update Amey's data, but this could be developed through the strategy, updating weekly, using MapBox.

CK, found this information useful to find trees and would help to map trees not currently mapped.



Sheffield &
Rotherham

PS, its useful to have it visually as its easier to refer to a map, 1%-5% of the tree data being incorrect from using Amey database this could help to increase accuracy.

DB, the map is not linked to any authority data, need to meet to discuss how the information could be used.

AG, a central asset ID included in the data, where you click on a tree and it identifies the individual tree and changes can be incorporated, making it useful for Tree Wardens to keep the data live. JC the functionality for Tree Wardens would be key.

KR, for the information to be publically available there would be a need to be clear what would be useful to the public, and where it could be hosted on a website.

Action: DB/KR/AG to meet to discuss the use of the map, sharing data managed between the authorities

Action: KR to add tree map into the action plan in Outcome 6

2. Strategy Timeline, PR & launch

Design and Publication Update

LB, thanks to CK for doing a great job in putting the photos and captions together and contribution to the webinar.

KR, felt the webinar was a good template for online engagement, with some positive press and good to do it a part of Sheffield Tree Week.

Tree Week & Webinar

LB, KR and her team did an excellent job, please pass on our thanks to the team for supporting the webinar. This sort of communication approach is going to be key to getting the message out about the strategy and change of approach. There has been positive feedback from the event and good that we were able to follow up with the tree warden PR.

Review of Consultation Launch & Update

KR, presented an interim report on the consultation to date.

The consultation went live on the 16th July 2020 and will close on the 8th October 2020.

On 29th July 2020, 211 responses had been received, all from individuals.

From the responses, data can be analysed to give an insight into who is responding to the consultation. The demographics show who is completing the consultation, age group between 35 – 74 yrs with no under 25yrs taking part, ethnicity is from a mainly white background and disability is clustered around mobility issues and long term illnesses. In the other areas of the consultation there are strong messages coming through on education and mental health issues. There is a need to look at how we can target the missing demographic areas over the coming months before the consultation finishes.

Action: KR to email the presentation out to the group

KR, need to consider how the stakeholder list might help with these groups. Different approaches needed dependent on the organisation. For national organisation – a letter

from LB with a link and a printed version if required, target schools in September, tree officers, foresters

Action: ALL to look at the stakeholder list and to share the consultation with groups by the 14th August

Action: KR to draft a letter to go out w/c 21st August

Engagement Process Update

Autumn Tree Celebration

For discussion at a later meeting after the consultation closes

Future Engagement

LB, for information, the website was starting to become cumbersome so as a temporary fix the SRWT webpages have been rejigged and the webpage now sits under the Get Involved tab <https://www.wildsheffield.com/getinvolved/sheffield-street-tree-partnership/>

Action: All to give any feedback to LB on the webpage

Process to March 2020: Shaping the Final Strategy

LB, there is a need to look at the process on how we are working as a group, as there is a time frame for when we need the strategy to be adopted with a 90% draft being done by the end of the year. Are we happy to add into the action plan now or do we want to just focus on the current Working Strategy actions and 'park' the other ideas elsewhere to be reviewed as part of the final consultation?

PS, as there are already a large number of actions we need to be clear on the actions we include.

LB, we need to think about who is going to do the work as we are all busy and we need to get the decision making process resolved.

Agreed to focus on existing actions, picking up other wider proposals as part of the final strategy eg Andy Greenwood's email reviewing species diversity & resilience baseline.

Action: ALL to take stock in September to see where we are with the responses to the consultation and send out a press release reviewing the results to date

3. Delivering the Strategy

NB Majority of actions are recorded in the Action Plan GANNT chart and tracked there.

Only significant issues to be noted in the minutes going forwards.

Review and Update on actions

PEFC update & Decision

PEFC, to go ahead

KR is meeting with the SCC Parks & Countryside team

Action: KR to send CK information on the Sheffield Standard.

DB updated that highway engineers are working on some test cases, DB to send through the reports when completed before the next meeting to review decision-making process.

Cultivars

PS, a goal to reduce reliance on common species, DB sent through the 20/21 planting analysis which is still going in the wrong direction with cultivars. Can we dial it down from 65% to 50%?

DB, this is due to supplier products, could be comprising on the quality of the trees using alternative suppliers. But planning on changing to a non-native Dog Wood species, which could reduce it to 35% but it's a smaller tree but would have to get approval for changing species by the council. Pursuing to get it onto the supplier list.

Action: DB to update the action plan and email report/update out to the group

LB, may not be ideal but it is a good pragmatic approach to showing change in direction.

Baseline review of Species Diversity and Canopy Cover

LB, need to reflect on the baseline analysis done, are we happy with it?

AG, queried use of canopy cover in the context of just street trees, LB agreed this was an issue but currently the group can only focus on street trees not tree & woodland across the city – public & private.

May need to be clear in the strategy what is being looked at and why.

Action: CK / AG to look at the data that has been sent and to report back to the group in September

AG, useful site that looks at tree cover by cities – Treepedia

Additional Planting Pilot

12 locations have been identified, DB to cost up the species list and the operational team to quote for the work. Determining where to plant more trees and then securing funding for establishing the trees in Nether Edge.

LB, raised concern that funds weren't going to a central funding pot for the partnership to distribute as this was a previous criticism – rich people can pay for more trees in their area but what about other parts of the city? Wasn't this in the strategy?

DB, understanding the funding is by the local residents and there will be no additional costs accruing to the authorities. The 3yr establishment costs to be paid by third party and not to Amey, keeping the costs down if the residents take on the responsibility for the trees planted.

JC, currently looking at funding options for additional planting, an expression of interest is being worked on and Sheffield is being put forward.

Action: JC to update the group as proposal progresses.

Tree Warden Scheme

To date, 2 applications have been received. There are some radio interviews scheduled with Sheffield Live & Radio Sheffield to promote the tree warden scheme.

Action: ALL to promote tree warden opportunity out on their networks

AOB

Update on Secretariat; KR looking at possible support

Road verges: LB/CK/LB/KR to meet to talk about road verges,

Action: LB to send out link to Living Highways page on the Trust website

Next three meetings TBC via doodle poll.