



Sheffield Street Tree Partnership

Action notes of meeting held on Monday 4th June 2024

Attendees	
Nathan Edwards	Chair of SSTP (NE)
Christine King	Street Tree Action Groups/Street Tree Warden (CK)
Nik Baker	SRWT - Interim Partnership Manager
Sarah Shorley	Street Tree Warden (SS)
Kieron King	Amey (KK)
Carl Ellison	Amey (CE)
Richard Eyre	Sheffield City Council (RE)
Mohamed Edroos	Sheffield City Council (ME)
David Wain	Sheffield City Council (DW)
Claire Duffield	Sheffield City Council (CD)
Emily Standbrook-Shaw	Sheffield City Council (ESS)
Apologies	
Paul Selby	Community Planting (PS)
Milla Rootes	SRWT
Nicola Dempsey	University of Sheffield (ND)
Camilla Allen	University of Sheffield (CA)
Nicky Rivers	SCC (NRi)
Lisa Welton	SCC (LW)
Caroline Campbell	The Woodland Trust (CC)

		ACTION WHOM
1.0	<u>Welcome and apologies</u>	
	NE welcomed and thanked all for attending the meeting.	
2.0	Sign off of previous notes and update on actions, as appropriate	
	<p>Notes from 29th - comments offered:</p> <p>Comments had been passed to Stocksbridge High Street Development team, asking them to bring future iterations back to SSTP.</p> <p>Away-day notes - no comments offered - record agreed.</p> <p>NE - recommended inviting TEP back to discuss further the BNG offsetting scheme that time hadn't allowed for.</p> <p>ESS - to put link to slides on drive.</p> <p>NE - wasn't sure the utility section was very useful, this may present an opportunity to improve understanding and improve the NJUG guidance.</p>	ESS
3.0	<p>Forward look</p> <p><i>To update the Partnership on any significant activities taking place between now and the next Partnership meeting, that it would be helpful for partners to be aware of.</i></p> <p>ESS - SCC's Strategy and Resources committee have asked for an update on progress implementing the recommendations of the Lowcock Inquiry. This would include CIP and support to SSTP. In terms of support for SSTP, the report would consider much of the activity as complete, and rolled into BAU.</p> <p>Tree event on 12th in Birmingham - helpful to hear reflections from participants</p> <p>CK - asked for progress update on the 3rd tree inspector within Amey. KK/RE still looking into this issue, but at the moment there are still 2, CK concerned whether this was enough to fulfill strategy, CK & KK to discuss further and update partnership when further information is available. It was noted that a 3rd inspector would support strategy delivery.</p>	
4.0	Short updates	
4.1	LBAP - KK	
	It was noted that this action has been delayed by more than two years and	

		ACTION WHOM
	<p>should now be considered a priority.</p> <p>KK now has a second draft, which will be available in next couple of days to the working group.</p> <p>This has now become a priority for the partnership and as such, a task-and-finish Working Group will be formed to help drive the process forward in a reasonable timeframe.</p> <p>NB to form new LBAP working group</p>	<p>KK</p> <p>NB</p>
4.2	<p>STAG Governance - CK</p> <p>STAG Have suffered some internal disagreements since becoming a constituted group, and a splinter group has now formed which are using the same logo and a very similar name (Sheffield Tree Action Groups - STAG Campaigners), although not affiliated to constituted STAG.</p> <p>Be aware of this if approached for information - as co-chairs, CK and Jon Johnson are the official contacts for constituted STAG, and the two groups should not be confused with each other.</p> <p>Sheffield Ecology Group (convened by Alison Teal) have asked to join SSTP - NE has had initial discussions.</p>	
4.3	<p>Ecclesall Road Additional Planting - ERF Funded - Carl Ellison</p> <p>1 tree is already in - an additional 8 on Banner Cross will go in in next planting season. There are additional 11 locations on Ecclesall Rd identified, ERF are considering funding.</p> <p>CE made the Partnership aware that ward councillors had expressed some concerns that this will divert funding from other projects, but hopefully their concerns have been answered.</p> <p><i>ERF - Economic Recovery Fund</i></p>	
4.4	<p>Fibre broadband - DW</p> <p>No further update available - now archive this action</p>	NB
4.5	Tree Fayre/Urban Tree Festival - SS	

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	<p>Looking at an event in July - possibility of TCAF funding - but the working group felt the amount was insufficient, so are looking at a potential date in September and will consider Veolia and SYMCA funding - there is a need to hold an event as it's a strategy commitment and one of the World tree city commitments.</p> <p>Action SS & NB to meet and discuss</p>	SS & NB
4.6	<p>Town Hall Plaque - RE/ESS</p> <p>The Task and Finish group now has an independent facilitator to organise the first session of the group, so this is now moving forward. The group appears to be a good representation of the community.</p>	
4.7	<p>Strategic Planting Palette - NE</p> <p>First of 2 workshops was really well attended. Planting palette is now envisaged as an on-line portal which will filter location to give a list of most appropriate species to plant, as well as a list to avoid</p> <p>2nd session is this coming Thursday, to look at overall targets for city. Will be guest speakers.</p>	
5.0	<p>Subsidence related fells - DW</p> <p>DW presented a paper seeking agreement with SSTP, on the process that will be adopted for subsidence fells. There are some issues around GDPR and sharing property information.</p> <p>CK concerned that some campaigners will not be satisfied if full technical data is not made available after independent survey.</p> <p>DW advised that there are now 4 tiers of checks and surveys conducted for each fell by different organisations and individuals before it reaches the public consultation process and has concerns over GDPR should detailed property owner and claims information be provided in the public realm.</p> <p>There are confidentiality issues around Amey releasing sensitive data around pay-outs - releasing too much data has the potential of creating a situation where solicitors make an industry from seeking claims against tree subsidence which could lead to additional felling.</p>	

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	<p>DW clarified for CK that trees with a TPO are dealt with separately to highway trees under planning legislation, which has different requirements in terms of the information being put into the public sphere.</p> <p>NE suggested a compromise where some data is released, DW happy to provide statements with bullet-pointed information on the consultation platform.</p> <p>CE - doesn't think that it will be possible to satisfy all parties, but CK is concerned that there are still deep-rooted suspicions and the process needs to be transparent.</p> <p>SS - suggested a pro-active approach to information release</p> <p>Everyone was generally in agreement with the process set out in DW's paper, but CE raised concern that the 4 tiers of checks plus SSTP consideration is creating delays for residents who are suffering and liabilities are increasing.</p> <p>It was noted that this isn't solely a Sheffield problem, but we may be at the forefront given the recent history.</p> <p>DW suggested that fell cases are brought to the partnership and discussed on a case-by-case basis prior to public consultation, with detailed discussion around technical evidence points and this would be supplied in an abridged version on the subsequent consultation materials - this was agreed by all.</p>	
6.0	CIP	
6.1	<p>To agree revised programme based on complexity - RE/ME/DW</p> <p>Broad agreement on 'easy' streets (those with minimal engineering interventions) which will now be on an engagement only basis with residents immediately adjacent to any proposed engineering solution for tree retention.</p> <p>CK asked for results of consultation on Silver Hill Rd - DW advised residents were broadly in favour, responses were checked using an AI bot due to the significant amount of free text provided, and then have been manually cross-checked to confirm initial results and accuracy of the large language model AI bot. This will be shared imminently for SSTP to confirm happy to</p>	

		ACTION WHOM
	<p>give go ahead.</p> <p>Thompson Road - Mott McDonald have completed initial investigation and work is ongoing to maintain the 'processional' entrance to the Botanical Gardens. SCC Strategic Transport have confirmed this would not reach their threshold for public consultation given that the proposal is only very minor layout changes to the street.</p> <p>Process for all these streets now - Mott McDonald and Amey are producing simple drawings for each street which are clear about what the design means for each tree, lining around build outs and parking. There will be localised letter drops to affected streets in accessible language; trees will be noticed with details of where to contact for further information; any feedback will be assessed then work added into the build program around August.</p> <p>'Moderate' Streets Design tweaks need to include tree condition and engineering matrix scores for SSTP consideration. RE and team now looking at using SSTP Matrix score to produce alternative designs which will then be brought back to SSTP for views. There would then need to be a decision on which designs are publicly consulted on.</p> <p>PERP means that no further consultations can occur until after the election, when the second phase of consultations will hopefully go ahead.</p> <p>DW has begun positive discussions with strategic transport and elected members around the 'difficult' streets, considering wider aims and implications i.e. one-way systems etc.</p> <p>Sheldon Rd - CK suggested that carriageway and footpath could be looked at independently of each other to move the process forward. KK agreed that this would be discussed with RE and ME.</p> <p>NE summarised that there was consensus around the categorisation of streets, and SSTP welcomed the approach to looking at the moderate street designs again, factoring in the tree condition data.</p>	
	<p>Revised approach for consultation wording - ME/LW</p> <p>Work has been done around identifying how to identify immediate residents</p>	

		ACTION WHOM
	<p>from members of the public- QR codes have been investigated, but looks like it will be easier to change wording to 'are you a resident of X street?'</p> <p>Incorporation of a way-point identifier to identify issues of specific concern like lamp column number with info on how to find identifying data.</p> <p>DW - Scale of 1-10 has been chosen as it replicates other models used in consultations eg East Yorkshire referendum and has been tested by central government as an appropriate model. It's a sliding scale, but can be changed.</p> <p>Discussion was around the meaning of 'impact', as this is open to interpretation - DW will rephrase this to possibly an open question around impact, asking for views. Alternatively, each question could be followed by a box to add comment in a free-text box but have this as optional. But will look to set up to give answers that can be most easily analysed without having to run through AI language models.</p> <p>3rd question - suggested removing last word 'concern' to remove any subconscious direction.</p> <p>Group were in broad agreement with changes agreed to with DW</p> <p>Equality questions - group agreed that this struck the right balance</p> <p>NE thanked everyone for a productive discussion and the progress made.</p> <p>CD to draft an example version of the consultation in Have Your Say test environment factoring in this feed back and share for SSTP views as soon as possible.</p>	
7	Forward Plan	
7.1	<p>To discuss the Forward Plan, identifying priorities for resource and any gaps. - NE/ALL</p> <p>NE suggested that this item be the focus for the next meeting at the end of the month and asked all Partners to look at the plan, claim any outstanding actions and update accordingly.</p>	

		ACTION WHOM
	<p>AOB - NE/ALL</p> <p>CK asked for more info on the Attercliffe development - ESS said this will be presented by them at the next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be useful for partners who attend the Tree City of the World/Tree People Network Day in Birmingham next week, to feed back to the group at the next meeting.</p> <p>RE - suggested widening the membership/support of the Partnership, to include representatives from SCC Housing and Nicky Rivers who is now the Ecology Manager for SCC.</p> <p>SHU - membership is still going through their legal dept.</p>	
	<u>Close of Meeting</u>	