

Strategic Planning & Highways Group
Tree Preservation Taskforce
Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting
26 September 2023

Attendees: Stephen Mariner, Ruth McLeish Gert Vonhoff

Excused: Hilary Neville, Angela Goddard, Mike Hodges

Not attending: Angela Martin

The members assembled decided upon the name of the working group, set up by the SP&H Group: Tree Preservation Taskforce.

It was decided to go ahead with the meeting despite the fact that a substantial number of ECS members who had shown interest were not at the meeting. The terms of reference will be discussed at the follow-up meeting and if needed changed or added to. The members at the meeting thought it would be important to get things started.

The taskforce is chaired by Stephen Mariner and Ruth McLeish.

SM provided examples where he in the last few years thought more scrutiny and action to protect inner city trees were needed. RMcL reported on hedgerow destruction in Pinhoe and her concerns about that loss of habitat.

Actions agreed upon at the meeting:

1. Contact Joe Morshead, the ECC Tree Manager, and agree a meeting of the taskforce with him to establish a working relationship.
2. Contact Cllr Diana Moore to find out whether DCC has some responsibility as well (as she suggested) and who would be the contact there. (SM)
3. Urge ECC to update their Tree Preservation website with an up-to-date listing and/or map of TPOs.
4. Find out about DCC policy to automatically set up TPOs for new building sites.
5. Contact Devon Wildlife Trust and see whether they can come on board or have useful material for us.
6. Establish contact with Terrence Pickles of the 'exetertrees.uk' website to investigate whether a collaboration would be possible or whether he wants to join the taskforce.
7. Find out more about the wooded area on Bonhay Road which is under threat under new ownership.
8. Find out what happened about TPO for trees alongside the Pyramids Swimming Pool.
9. GV to set up a 'Current Concern' section on the ECS website to inform about the taskforce and their work.
10. GV together with SM and RMcL to draft Terms of Reference.
11. GV to distribute letter-headed Word files and paper copies to SM and RMcL.

Gert Vonhoff, 26 Sep 2023