

**Strategic Planning & Highways Group**  
**Tree Preservation Taskforce**  
**Notes from Meeting**  
**9 November 2023**

**Attendees:** Stephen Mariner, Ruth McLeish, Angela Goddard

**Excused:** Hilary Neville (not received email invite), Gert Vonhoff

**Not attending:** Angela Martin, Mike Hodges

Blue colour shows actions still to be taken.

Update on actions from last meeting (in blue what still needs to be done):

1. Contact Joe Morshead, the ECC Tree Manager, and agree a meeting of the taskforce with him to establish a working relationship. SM done, dates below
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 done, late response with name from DCC
3. Urge ECC to update their Tree Preservation website with an up-to-date listing and/or map of TPOs.
4. Find out about East Devon Council policy to automatically set up TPOs for new building sites. SM done: there is not automated set up
5. Contact Devon Wildlife Trust and see whether they can come on board or have useful material for us. SM presented draft letter.
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. SM done, reply came after meeting: some more details presented, some questions back, no real reply to meeting invite yet
7. Find out more about the wooded area on Bonhay Road which is under threat under new ownership. SM/GV took photos from trainline direction of area
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. All done.
10. GV together with SM and RMcL to draft Terms of Reference. Done
11. GV to distribute letter-headed Word files and paper copies to SM and RMcL. Done

The attendees agreed to forward the 'Terms of Reference' in their present form to the Main Committee for approval. GV to take it to Committee.

The attendees voiced their frustration about slow or no responses and that they were concerned about too much admin creeping in.

Stephen was able to speak with Rachael at the Civic Centre (street trees) concerning the two trees cut down in South Street and the trapped tree in Sidwell Street in its protective metal cage. She assured him there would be an investigation and that he would be informed of the outcome.

Stephen presented a draft letter proposed for Devon Wildlife Trust who we understand are very busy. Action: [to bring it to the attention of wider ECS \(GV, KL\), then post it](#)

After Stephen received an email from Joe Morshead with dates for us to be able to meet him. They are as follows: Thursday 30th November, Friday 1st December, Wednesday 6th December (morning 9-10.30), Thursday 7th December.

Actions agreed upon at the meeting:

1. [Arrange meeting with ECC Tree Officer, looks as if it will be 1 Dec](#)
2. [See points in blue above](#)

Stephen Mariner, 14 11 2023