

**Tree Report to NP03 Stoke Bishop, Westbury on Trym, Henleaze
Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting**

24th September 2012

1. This report needs to be submitted before the result of the current main activity of the Partnership Tree Supporters is known. I hope to give a supplementary report or a verbal report, or both, on or by the 23rd September. The Appeal, lodged at the request of the Stoke Bishop Forum, and at the request of and supported by the NP03 Neighbourhood Partnership, against the BCC Tree Officer's decision not to award TPOs on 8 further trees on Stoke Lodge Parkland will be heard/was heard by the Bristol Development North Committee on 12th September. The result was
2. The University of Bristol has been given conditional permission to proceed with major development at the Hiatt Baker Hall of Residence site. This will inevitably involve the loss of trees. Between the Application being made and the date of the DC North Meeting which awarded consent, major modifications to the plans were made following heated representation by residents etc. As a result of one of the changes there will now not be large blocks of apartments close to the Parry's Lane wall – which we felt were far too close to the major trees there to guarantee their future health. So those trees have probably been saved as measures will be taken to protect them and they now do not have buildings being put up within a gnat's whisker of their roots. One of the conditions has been the imposition of a landscaping scheme to replace as many trees as possible and the new Stoke Bishop Planning Group will have a role in that, and I shall be working with them on that scheme. BCC Parks Department has a wealth of experience with tree planting for this climate and soil type and we should draw upon that. We hope that the University will “allow” us to work with them and if they wish to maintain good relationships with the

residents they may be willing to do that.

3. A new housing development behind Roman Way/Avon Way resulted in the clearance of trees. This is not a Conservation Area. Local residents are concerned about the future health of their large and attractive trees on the perimeters of their back gardens as the planned development approaches quite close to the edges of the land. The BCC Tree Officer has contacted the BCC Planning Officer to make sure that all are aware. Sadly the residents' trees are not of high enough quality nor visible enough from the highway to merit Tree Protection Orders.
4. There is being formulated a Tree Planting plan for Trymside and there will be a Community Tree Planting Event there in the coming season (October to March). Up to 21 Mature trees there will be lost in the next few years due to disease and old age and the plan is to plant new ones in anticipation of the loss so that the area is not suddenly denuded. The event (and date) will be advertised and I hope some residents will come along to support the efforts being made.
5. Otherwise I have been working with residents answering their tree queries and putting them in touch with people to help them as each case dictates. With Hilary Long in Westbury and Alan Jenkinson in Sneyd Park we monitor planning applications to work on or to fell trees, and see if any issues should be raised. Dennis Brown who used to do this in Henleaze has relinquished the task (many thanks to him for his work) and I should be grateful if anyone could come forward from Henleaze to monitor the planning applications. Of course trees not in Conservation Area and not with TPOs can be felled without permission or forewarning. Not all applications to work on and/or trees have been granted. It would be wrong to claim that this is because of our activities although our efforts might have helped. Some TPOs have been applied to local trees.

Stephanie French