



**Minutes
of the
Coventry Tree Warden Network
AGM
Held on 30th September 2021
At St Barbara's Church Hall**

Present 22 people attended the meeting, including 3 Coventry City councillors.

Apologies There were 11 apologies, 7 members and 4 councillors

Pip Pountney read out her annual report and introduced guest speaker Ian (Mac) McDermott.

Mac gave a very interesting presentation on the Urban Forest Master Plan that Birmingham are currently producing and which it is hoped will be rolled out over the entire West Midlands Combined Authority.

Presentation Summary (Notes thanks to Louise Warren)

Why do we need an Urban Forest Master Plan?

70% of Global population live in cities

67% of Urban Forests in the UK have no proactive management

An Urban Forest Master Plan is a future destination that provides detailed information, recommendations and resources that would inform the community and its tree managers.

Birmingham have decided to implement their plan over 30 years at a cost of £

The following people are involved in the Master Plan:- Tree People (Birmingham's name for Tree Wardens), Birmingham City Council (The Client), Treeconomics (Sub contractor), The Community (The Customer)

As Birmingham is the first City in the UK to produce a Master Plan there is no benchmarking. Birmingham looked at Master Plans from different countries and poached some good ideas.

DEFRA will be using Birmingham as a Case Study.

The formula used to work out how many trees are required is as follows:-

$$N = \frac{R + V/G}{S}$$

S

N = number of trees required each year

R = Trees to be removed

V = Vacant pieces of land

G = How many places to plant trees

S = Stocking

When writing a Master Plan you need to ask the following questions:-

1. What do we have?

Look at the canopy cover in the city and collect i-Tree info and analyse the data.

2. What do we want?

Keep existing trees? More trees? How and where and to include costing. This can be done through Consultation using questionnaires and surveys.

3. How do we get there?

Tree planting.

4. How are we doing?

The Urban Forest Master Plan performance needs to be checked throughout to see how the plan is doing.

Once the Urban Forest Master Plan is online this is just the start of the journey as the main work starts afterwards to implement it.

The presentation included a lot of interesting figures, regarding canopy cover, trees values to the city assessed by Birmingham Tree People and a surveys of empty tree pits in one area alone that might accommodate 200 trees.

Our thanks to Mac and we are looking forward to seeing the final document.

Treasurer's Report

Terry Little presented the annual treasurer's report. There had been less financial activity due to Covid, but we had managed to give our annual donation to the Lord Mayor's charities from mistletoe donations and we were sponsoring one of our members on a arboricultural course.

Election of committee

All members were willing to stand and re-elected en bloc. 2 other volunteers would be co-opted at the next committee meeting.

Refreshments were served and the meeting closed at 9pm.