



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE & OPEN ENVIRONMENTS: PREPARING BOROUGH TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGIES

CASE STUDIES

FEBRUARY 2013

**LONDON PLAN 2011
IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK**



MAYOR OF LONDON

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Published by

Greater London Authority

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London SE1 2AA

www.london.gov.uk

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Acknowledgements

This has been produced jointly with the Forestry Commission London. We would like to thank the members of the London Tree Officers Association for their contributions to this document.

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Front cover photo - source: Matthew Frith

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Case Study for Preparing a Tree and Woodland Strategy

The London Borough of Merton

Introduction

The London Borough of Merton is an outer London borough covering approximately 14.5 square miles (37.6 km²) and with a total population of around 200,000. The borough has a population density of 14,000 per square mile. It is well known in London for having some of the best commons in London with mature tree cover and woodland. Areas such as Wimbledon Common, Mitcham Common and Morden Park are well known as places with good quality tree cover that contribute greatly to the quality of life for the residents who live in these locations and visitors who travel from all over the world to attend Wimbledon at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club during the summer.

The Wimbledon tennis tournament is the single largest sporting event in the UK held annually, attracting over two hundred thousand visitors to the area. The recreational benefits and opportunities that are provided by Merton's trees and woodlands are probably just as well known to many overseas visitors as some of the more obvious tourist sites within central London.

Background

For some years Merton Council had been considering the process and benefits derived from drawing up a tree strategy to better manage its tree resource and maximise the benefits its trees and woodlands provide to the people of Merton. The knowledge that the Forestry Commission and The Mayor of London were collaborating on producing guidance for local authorities on the subject helped to make the arguments within Merton that a

formal tree strategy was a good thing for the borough to produce. On the 26th of May 2011 in recognition of the public interest in trees in Merton and as a consequence of a willingness to get to grips with the issues Merton Council set in place a Task Group to undertake a review of Merton's trees. This process was formally vested in its Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel and resulted in a report on the Scrutiny Review on Trees published in April 2012 (see link below).

The Task Group was set up with the following remit:

Objectives:

- To investigate current practice with tree maintenance and planting, environmental issues and resident's views.
- To examine good practice in other boroughs
- To make recommendations for improvement

Other lines of enquiry:

- Enforcement of Tree Protection Orders and other legislation to trees
- Resources available/finance/sponsorship
- Housing development
- Trees on private land

The Recommendations:

- That Cabinet lead on the development of a Tree Strategy for the Council. The Strategy should be aligned to the Borough's development aims, Local Development Framework, Core Strategy and Duty of Care considerations.

- That existing data collection and analysis should be established and strengthened.
- That Planning and Enforcement procedures be clarified and effectively enforced.
- That the local community are encouraged to become involved in caring for the Borough's trees.
- That access information is provided
- That Cabinet review how tree planting and maintenance is financed.

The approach taken by officers at Merton Council was to enlist high level Cabinet support for the process at the outset and use the Council's own procedures for formally embedding the process of creating a tree strategy into its core policy objectives and documentation. Much of the detail contained within the recommendations above closely follows the guidance produced by the Mayor in terms of data and evidence collection, getting high level political support, canvassing the views of residents through consultation, biosecurity (pests and diseases), understanding and valuing the tree resource and writing an action or implementation plan to follow up and galvanise the initial stages in to a robust and achievable process.

As such Merton's approach could be said to be an exemplar of the process to produce a Tree Strategy as it deals with many of the issues highlighted within the Mayor's guidance as being essential components. At Merton the process is not yet complete with the production of an Implementation Plan currently being planned. Nevertheless Merton has demonstrated what can be achieved with minimal resources and the political will to engage with the process.

For further information contact:

The Scrutiny Team, London Borough of Merton,
020 8545 3864,
e-mail: scrutiny@merton.gov.uk.
www.merton.gov.uk/democratic_services/w-agendas/w-scrutinyreports/918.pdf
Or Dave Lofthouse, Arboricultural Manager,
Merton Tree Section on 020 8545 3659.
e-mail: david.lofthouse@merton.gov.uk

CASE STUDY FOR PREPARING A TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

Introduction

The London Borough of Camden is an inner London borough covering approximately 8.4 square miles (21.8 km²) and with a total population of around 235,000. The borough has a population density of 28,000 per square mile. It is well known in London for having some of the finest squares and mature tree cover within the Greater London area. Areas such as Hampstead, Highgate, St John's Wood, Kilburn, Camden Town and Kentish Town are synonymous with good quality tree cover that contributes greatly to the quality of life for the residents who live in these locations

The London Borough of Camden's first tree strategy was adopted in 2003 and covered the period 2003 to 2006. It set the standard for how Camden would care for the trees under its control and for which it was responsible through the planning system.

Background

In 2007 following a detailed process as part of reviewing the previous document it adopted its second tree strategy covering the period 2007 to 2011. This had been drawn up with the intention of acting as a framework document that would define the Borough's approach to the management of the Council owned tree stock and to support the Borough to maintain and increase its tree cover. This document included many of the components suggested within the Mayor's new Supplementary Planning Guidance.

In 2012 this strategy acted as the foundation on which further refinement of the document

was possible and the borough decided to streamline its review and monitoring process to present its new Tree Policy as Camden's policy for managing, maintaining and replacing Council owned trees. Although a much more condensed document it nonetheless covers the essential requirements that are highlighted within the Mayor's SPG as being a pre-requisite for an effective and workable policy document. It was produced internally by officers.

Objectives:

- To act as a framework document that defines the borough's approach to the management of Council owned trees to ensure the safe and sustainable management of the tree stock.
- To provide clear guidance for officers to implement and ensure that the Council meets its duty of care, legal, health and safety obligations.
- Acknowledge the case for trees and the contribution they make to the quality of the environment.

Actions:

- All agents, partners and contractors of the council are required to comply with the Tree Policy.
- The Council manages its trees to ensure that it meets its legal responsibilities
- The Council inspects and maintains its trees in line with its system of 'zoning' trees.
- Community safety – Consideration is given on case by case basis for additional pruning over and above the tree maintenance schedule where serious obstruction of CCTV

coverage by trees has occurred.

- The Council ensures all Council tree work is carried out according to BS3998: 2010 British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work, and BS5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition & Construction
- All tree work is conducted in line with policy and legislation requirements relating to wildlife.
- The Council assesses proposed development against its own and national tree policies as well as the National Planning policy Framework and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

The Council only fells trees for sound arboriculture reasons:

Trees that are;

- Dead, dying or dangerous. Proven to be causing significant structural damage. (in the processing of claims the Council will manage and process subsidence claims for trees in accordance with the LTOA's Risk Limitation Strategy and the Joint Mitigation Protocol where appropriate.)
- Considered by the Tree Service to be inappropriate species for the location
- When removal is required as part of an agreed management plan, or as an overall agreed improvement project
- Where trees are identified for removal, and the works are not urgent or emergency works, an advance notice/s will be placed on the tree/s
- The Council plants trees within its annual

tree planting programme with regard to the 'right tree for the right site', and with the aim of achieving age and species diversification in its tree stock.

- Camden's policy is to replace and where possible and appropriate, increase the Council's tree stock.

The following reasons will not constitute grounds for the pruning or removal of trees by the Council.

- Obstruction of light and/ or views. Aphid honeydew. Leaf-fall, the dropping of fruit & flowers. Renewable energy systems, such as solar panels or wind turbines. Improving satellite/digital television reception. Roosting birds in a tree and or their droppings. Where a tree is perceived to be too large. Problems associated with pollen. Someone willing to pay for the removal and replacement of a tree/s. Causing disturbance to pavements or kerbs (In such cases an engineering solution will be sought).
- If it is possible to improve the situation through general maintenance, this work is carried out at the appropriate time as part of a cyclical maintenance regime.
- Decorative lights in trees require permission from the Tree and Public Lighting Sections.
- The council seeks compensation from any external organisation responsible for significant damage to, or removal of any council owned tree/s to the value as calculated by the 'CAVAT' asset valuation system.

For further information contact:

The Tree team on 020 7974 4444, or

treesection@camden.gov.uk. For issues relating to private trees, the Tree & Landscape officers can be contacted on 020 7974 4444, or planning@camden.gov.uk.

Other formats and languages

For a large print, Braille, disc, sign language video or audio-tape version of this document, please contact us at the address below:

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Chinese

如果需要您母語版本的此文件，
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Vietnamese

Nếu bạn muốn có văn bản tài liệu này bằng ngôn ngữ của mình, hãy liên hệ theo số điện thoại hoặc địa chỉ dưới đây.

Greek

Αν θέλετε να αποκτήσετε αντίγραφο του παρόντος εγγράφου στη δική σας γλώσσα, παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε τηλεφωνικά στον αριθμό αυτό ή ταχυδρομικά στην παρακάτω διεύθυνση.

Turkish

Bu belgenin kendi dilinizde hazırlanmış bir nüshasını edinmek için, lütfen aşağıdaki telefon numarasını arayınız veya adrese başvurunuz.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਰਾਬਤਾ ਕਰੋ:

Hindi

यदि आप इस दस्तावेज़ की प्रति अपनी भाषा में चाहते हैं, तो कृपया निम्नलिखित नंबर पर फोन करें अथवा नीचे दिये गये पते पर संपर्क करें

Bengali

আপনি যদি আপনার ভাষায় এই দলিলের প্রতিলিপি (কপি) চান, তা হলে নীচের ফোন নম্বরে বা ঠিকানায় অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ করুন।

Urdu

اگر آپ اس دستاویز کی نقل اپنی زبان میں چاہتے ہیں، تو براہ کرم نیچے دئے گئے نمبر پر فون کریں یا دیئے گئے پتے پر رابطہ کریں

Arabic

إذا أردت نسخة من هذه الوثيقة بلغتك، يرجى الاتصال برقم الهاتف أو مراسلة العنوان أدناه

Gujarati

જો તમને આ દસ્તાવેજની નકલ તમારી ભાષામાં જોઈતી હોય તો, કૃપા કરી આપેલ નંબર ઉપર ફોન કરો અથવા નીચેના સરનામે સંપર્ક સાધો.

