

Matters arising from the Second Public AGM for the Fuzzy Drove Conservation Group held on the 27th June 2016

The following issues were raised during the course of the meeting.

1. Question: Can we investigate whether, in the bridleway section of the Drove, the Ops team (or their contractor) could cut less of the verges to protect planting and conservation work? Perhaps we could agree a maximum width?

Answer: The minimum width (between Kempshott Lane and the bollards) needs to allow an emergency vehicle to access no 1. Fuzzy Drove if required. Beyond the bollards the minimum width needs to accommodate Council tree-surgery equipment if required.

2. Question: Tree re-planting – why are trees not replaced when removed? If the Council does not have a budget for this, can others buy trees to replant with Council agreement?

Answer: The Council does have a budget for replacing and would be happy to consider requests.

3. Question: Is there a policy or definition of what equals a tree in terms of height, girth, etc.

Answer: There is no policy or definition and even the experts rarely agree. Recently a court has advised that even a sapling is a tree so it would be reasonable to base the definition on species rather than size. In a conservation area, all trees with a diameter over 75mm at a point 1.5m above ground level are protected. However Fuzzy Drove is not designated a conservation area.

4. Question: Would there be any objection to the tagging of trees – i.e. adding plaques or labels to identify the species

Answer: No objections, but please use non-invasive attachments.