



Minutes

Name of Meeting	Environment & Sustainability Forum		
Date and Time	15 th November 2022 at 17:00		
Venue	Microsoft Teams		
Attendees	Name	Name	
	Natasha Dix	Ally De Trey	
	Holly Jones	Jonathan Bacon	
	Abigail Reynolds	Cheryl Fontana	
	Dina Jung	Dave Stewart	
	Fiona Fitz-Brock	Tony Gillingham	
	Helena Hewston	Ian Boyd	
	John Hobart	John McLagan	
	Lester	Marianne Sullivan	
	David Newton	Paul Fuller	
	Penny Acton	Peter Mason	
	Chris Quirk	Robert Pacham	
	Rob Sauven	Stephen Cockett	
	Sally	Sarah Innes	
	Tim M	Venetia Verey	
	Michael Murwill	Nora Clinton	
	Ian Stephens	Maggie Nelmes	
	Henry Morris	Claire Critchison	
Apologies	Sarah Talbot	Debbie Andre	
	Wendy Perera		

1. <u>Welcome and Housekeeping</u>	
1.1 Apologies received from Sarah Talbot, Wendy Perera, Debbie Andre.	
2. <u>Ash Dieback</u>	
2.1 TG displayed Ash Dieback presentation on screen	
Q. Dave Stewart: What is the economic cost to the IWC?	
A. Tony - will need to look into this and respond in writing following on from meeting.	
Following on from above question raised, Tony has looked into this and provided the following answer: Approximately £85,048 for this financial year, excluding storm damage works and reactive survey works required this winter. This is likely to increase year on year until we start running out of ash trees in high-medium public usage zones.	

<p>Q. Michael Murwill: what can the IWC/residents do to protect the Ash trees? A. Tony – if you own ash trees when they get infected prune lightly, which will help them last longer. Pollarding reduces the risk and provides deadwood habitats.</p>	
<p>Q. Dave Stewart: With up to 98% risk of infection and tree death does Ash Dieback mutate across to other trees and if so, what is the % risk of this happening? A. Tony – will need to look into this and respond in writing following on from meeting</p> <p>Following on from above question raised, Tony has looked into this and provided the following answer: I believe it was thought unlikely until recently due to the low genetic diversity of the disease and purely sexual reproduction capacity, however the article below suggests that this is now being questioned. There is very limited material on this particular subject.</p> <p>The invasive pathogen, ash dieback fungus <i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>, is spreading rapidly across Europe. It shows high levels of outcrossing and limited population structure, even at the epidemic front. The anamorphic (asexual) form produces prolific conidia, thought to function solely as spermatia (male gametes), facilitating gene flow between sympatric strains. Here, we show that conidia are capable of germination on ash leaves and in vitro, and can infect seedlings via leaves or soil. In leaves, germlings form structures resembling fruiting bodies. Additionally, <i>H. fraxineus</i> colonises ash debris and grows in soil in the absence of ash tissues. We propose an amended life-cycle in which wind-dispersed, insect [1]vectored or water-spread conidia infect ash and may sporulate in planta, as well as in forest debris. This amplifies inoculum levels of different strains in ash stands. In combination with their function as spermatia, conidia thus act to maximise gene flow between sympatric strains, including those originally present at low inoculum. Such mixing increases evolutionary potential, as well as enhancing the likelihood of gene introgression from closely related strains or assimilation of further genetic diversity from parental Asian populations. This scenario increases the adaptability of <i>H. fraxineus</i> to new climates and, indeed, onto new host species (Fones et al., 2016).</p>	
<p>Q. Michael Murwill: Once an Ash tree is felled, is there a policy to replace it with at least another tree? A. Tony – In our parks and urban spaces we are currently replacing 241 on any tree removed. Some place you got nothing but ash, it is stipulated in felling licence for forestry commission that you have to re stock. If it is mixed woodland than you can use natural regeneration to encourage a health woodland.</p>	
<p>Q. Tom M: What happens to all the Ash timber removed from the IWC tree stock? Any plans for a community log bank? A. Tony- Majority of it stays on site for habitat to help diversities the ecological nesh available to difference species to make the areas more resilient. If the timber in valuable the contractors will purchase or reduce the cost of work, and I am ware they also give away timber to the community on site. Currently nothing in place.</p> <p>Natasha -This is something we could take forward when looking at the tree planning strategy as a consideration in the future.</p>	
<p>Q. Penny: Has been offered mainly oak mulch that I would like to use as a path. Is it ok to use mulch that has come from different village or will it spread deceases? A. Tony – It could, best thing to do is to mulch it first and let it decompose for at least 6 months before use it.</p>	

<p>Q. Marianne Sullivan: I grow hundreds of trees and give them to the village. What do we do to protect our trees?</p> <p>A. Tony – I wouldn't plant Ash tree at this time but other species as many as we can keep planting.</p>	
<p>3. <u>New economic thinking in the face of the climate crisis- A brief introduction to Doughnut Economics</u></p>	
<p>3.1 Nora displayed Doughnut Economics presentation on Screen.</p>	
<p>Q. Penny Acton: Asked if these slides can be shared?</p> <p>A. Nora – Confirmed these will be shared. HJ advised we can circulate with minutes</p>	
<p>Q. Dave Stewart: How are improvements (increased EV usage: reduced fossil fuel usage factored into the wheel - in other words how is it kept dynamic)?</p> <p>A. Nora – They are all working towards climate change and reduce carbon emission. The wheel can offer alternative examples when it comes to EV usage. It is more the tool to help you think through the actions you take to reduces carbon emission and try to meet social need as well as environmental needs.</p>	
<p>Q. Marianne Sullivan: My Concerned we have many things in place, but they don't come together for example, Biosphere, policies, AONB, environmental designation. If you use a Doughnut Economics, it will be a better way of making decisions.</p> <p>A. Nora – It does bring in the social element in. If you look at the Mission zero strategy from IWC it is already imbedded. The wheel highlights and makes you aware of other elements you need to think about when making decisions. Jonathan Bacon advise that the IWC is currently trying to develop our own decision wheel.</p>	
<p>4. <u>Pre-Submitted Questions</u></p>	
<p>4.1 No pre-submitted question submitted.</p>	
<p>5. <u>AOB</u></p>	
<p>5.1 None raised.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting 17th January 2023</p>	