

REPORT OF TREE AND LANDSCAPE OFFICER

SUBJECT: TREE PRESERVATION AND HEDGEROW ORDERS AND OTHER WORK OF THE TREE AND LANDSCAPE OFFICER

Purpose of Report

To explain to members the role of the Tree and Landscape Officer and to update on progress from 2010 to present.

Statutory Casework

Statutory cases will generally involve a site visit to assess the issues at hand along with consultation and/or correspondence and follow-up work.

Year	2010	2011	Up to 3-4-2012
Tree preservation Order Applications to do work to	32	26	9
Conservation Area Notifications	28	18	3
Planning consultation responses – landscape conditions mainly	91	82	27
Hedgerow removal notices	3	4	1
Tree Preservation Orders implemented	0	5	2 to be implemented
Non statutory cases (Approx)	87	100	41

Non Statutory casework

There are also approximately 100 non statutory cases annually involving general tree enquiries, in-house assistance, enforcement cases, PCNPA site management and co-ordination of the voluntary tree warden scheme. Approximately half of these cases involve a site visit to assess the issues and all will involve some form of correspondence (email, phone call and letter).

Along with these cases the officer is producing a PCNPA Tree Safety Document which will identify safe procedures and practice that the Park should adopt on trees in its ownership. The document will be amended following the National Tree Safety Group advice on current safe practice.

A supplementary planning guidance document on safeguarding trees within development sites is being produced to assist planning applicants in the provision of
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Conservation and Planning Review Committee – 20th June 2012

the correct information relating to trees. Discussions with Pembrokeshire County Council have taken place in regard to making it a Joint SPG.

Compliance

Outcome 1 The National Park is conserved for current and future generations – *Through the protection of important trees and hedges that enhance our natural landscape.*

Outcome 2 Residents and visitors enjoy and appreciate the National Park – *Through the retention and protection of the landscape*

Outcome 3 Residents and visitors use opportunities provided to adopt more sustainable lifestyles - *The Tree Warden Scheme is focusing on the implementation of community orchards throughout Pembrokeshire through assistance from local schools and community councils.*

Outcome 4 Opportunities are provided for local people to live within the National Park – *Not directly applicable*

Outcome 5 A thriving local economy exists based on the sustainable use of the National Park. – *The Tree Warden Scheme is focusing on the implementation of community orchards throughout Pembrokeshire.*

Outcome 6 Residents and Visitors from a wide range of backgrounds access opportunities for improved understanding about the National Park – *The Tree Warden Scheme is open to all persons and offers a variety of training relating to the natural landscape including tree planting, hedgerow management and equipment use.*

Outcome 7 Residents and visitors recognise the distinct Pembrokeshire cultures within the National Park – *not directly applicable*

Outcome 8 The Authority is recognised as meeting good practice standards in terms of governance, providing value for money and listening to the views of residents, visitors and partners. - *The Tree Warden Scheme is a voluntary group that is open to all persons and offers free / subsidised training based upon the requests of the volunteers.*

(To be read in conjunction with Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal section)

Human Rights/Equality issues

The key aspect of the role where human rights / equality would be an issue is the Tree Warden Scheme; however the scheme is voluntary and is open to all persons and where possible leaflets produced for the for public are bilingual (Welsh and English) (see provided leaflet)

Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal

The statutory element of the role is based upon the protection of trees, and hedges deemed important to the Park to preserve and enhance the natural landscape in accordance with Corporate Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 (See compliance section above).

Tree Wardens Pembrokeshire Voluntary Scheme has been involved in the planting of community orchards throughout Pembrokeshire as a means of involving the communities.

Welsh Language Statement

The Tree Wardens Pembrokeshire has produced a bilingual information leaflet.

Conclusion

The Tree and Landscape officer deals annually with between 200 and 250 cases split between site visits and office work, on all aspects relating to trees within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

The role involves regular consultations with Planners, Agents, Rangers, Community Councillors, Tree Surgeons, Landowners, interested members of the public and the Tree Wardens Pembrokeshire Volunteers.

- The implementation of a TPO takes approximately 18 hours.
- The assessment of each TPO application, C.A. notification and Hedgerow Removal Notice takes approximately 6 hours.
- A planning consultation takes approximately 3-4 hours.
- 6-7 hours a month are spent on Tree Wardens Pembrokeshire – including correspondence, meetings, training and events.

Recommendation

For the members to note the report

Background Documents

Tree Wardens Pembrokeshire Leaflet

Photographs: Powerpoint Presentation

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Sketch by Emma Rooney of the volunteers planting an apple tree at the event