

## **2010 Review of Action points & Targets from 2008 -2013 strategy**

To protect Council owned trees and create a strategic approach to their management -

We will co-ordinate the management of tree services across WCBC Departments.

**Review points – This is on going and we continue to work in partnership to deliver the services of the Tree Section.**

Retain trees wherever possible.

Pruning in accordance with current or best arboricultural practice using competent persons.

Ensure work specifications for tree work are written by arboricultural Officers or under their instruction.

Provide training in basic tree pruning methods for Streetscene staff.

**Review points – This is on going and we continue to ensure that trees are retained wherever possible and that pruning works are carried out to a high standard.**

Follow and use guidance set by the arboricultural profession, statutory nature conservation organisations and other relevant organisations.

**Review points – This is on going and we continue to work within current guidelines & legislation.**

Carry out sensitive or specialist pruning practices to retain and create wildlife habitat where safety allows.

**Review points – This is most important when carrying out works to mature and decayed trees, wherever possible we retain dead wood, split and damaged branches and open cavities for their habitat value.**

Produce, distribute and implement guidelines for work in close proximity to trees. Form asset management planning liaison meetings.

**Review points – Guidelines have been completed, Asset management consult as required.**

Ensure consultation in place with the Planning Department for development affecting council trees.

**Review points – Consultation is carried out, liaison meetings take place as required between Environment Department Tree Section and Planning Department Arboricultural Officer.**

Enter publicly owned woodlands in the parks and open spaces into the Forestry Commission Woodland Grant Scheme, where this is appropriate.

**Review points – The Tree and Coed Cymru Officer is working towards this goal with the aim that the majority of Council owned woodlands will be within the better woodlands for Wales grant scheme by the end of 2011.**

Meet our legal obligations and manage risk -

Complete a tree risk assessment survey to develop a tree inspection & assessment programme. Establish council tree population.

**Review points – We have developed a draft tree risk policy and have carried out inspections and risk assessments of parks, country parks, schools and large areas of public open space, currently we are inspecting and risk assessing trees adjacent to busy highways throughout the borough, concentrating on A & B roads.**

**We have over 15'000 trees recorded on our database and are in the process of establishing accurate figures for tree populations in parks, country parks, school sites and open spaces but it will be several years before we can establish a definitive figure relating to the overall population of council owned trees.**

Create a maintenance programme for council owned trees and implement.

**Review points – Newly planted trees are maintained in order to ensure successful establishment, proactive inspections are**

**carried out to identify necessary maintenance and management works.**

Create a cleaner, greener attractive and healthier environment whilst reducing our effect on climate change and the effect it has on Wrexham –

Plant 100 new standard size trees every 2 years starting in 2009, concentrating on parks, open space, schools and amenity areas.

**Review points – We have exceeded this target in 2009 by planting over 300 trees and in 2010 over 150 new standard trees were planted. We aim to continue beating this target by planting more trees with the help of local communities and their Local Councillors.**

Start urban (street) tree planting on 2 year cycle starting in 2008.

**Review points – Trees were planted in East Avenue in 2010 with funding sourced by Yale College, students helped plant the trees. Further potential sites will be investigated in 2011.**

Organise at least 5 National Tree Week events over next 5 years in country and urban parks involving schools and community.

**Review points – In 2009 we organised a “Tree walk” in Acton park which was well attended, National Tree Week 2010 featured a “Tree dressing” day at Ponciau park.**

At least 80% of new trees planted to be native to Britain.

**Review points – To date approximately 65% of new trees planted have been native, in 2011 we are hoping to create extensive areas of new native woodland, this will put us on target to exceed our target of 80% of new trees being native.**

Adopt sustainable planting techniques by planting trees in open pits to improve conditions and reduce maintenance.

**Review points – We re-use tree guards and no longer use grilles for urban / street tree planting. We also now use Stakes**

**which have not been treated with chemical preservative and biodegradable Hessian tree ties.**

Prioritise site visits according to risk & location, car share where possible to reduce vehicle emissions. Allocate a non vehicle day once a week unless there is an emergency. (Record car free days as measure).

**Review points – Site visits are now routinely prioritised and car sharing is used when practical to do so. It is not always possible to allocate a non vehicle day once a week due to demands on the service; however since April 2009 over 100 car free days have been recorded.**

Phase out the use of chemicals to control weeds around council trees and promote to external bodies.

**Review points – The council's Streetscene section that carry out grass cutting and grounds maintenance on the majority of Council sites have been advised that weed control is no longer necessary around the bases of staked trees. Unfortunately weed control is still required for hedging plants, whips and small trees to ensure successful establishment.**

Investigate sources of external funding for tree planting and utilise. Aim for at least £15,000 by 2013. Seek to create Community woodland planting on sites in council ownership if the opportunity & funding arises.

**Review points – In 2010 over £5000.00 worth of tree planting was carried out using money from environmental grants, we will be creating extensive areas of new native woodland during 2011 which is funded by Forestry Commission Wales and will involve the local community.**

Replace trees felled on Council land in the nearest possible position to the removed tree during the nearest planting season.

**Review points – This is on going and we continue re-plant as close as possible to felled trees wherever practical to do so.**

To raise awareness of the value of trees through consultation, education and participation –

Work with partners to encourage, support and involve communities and schools particularly during National Tree Week in parks, urban tree planting schemes and other tree related projects.

**Review points – We are working in close partnership with Coed Cymru to involve local Councillors and their communities in tree planting projects and aim to improve links with schools.**

Inform the community of significant tree felling & planting schemes by: Updating local Councillors or Community Councils. Contacting people locally. Expanding the Tree Page of Wrexham website to incorporate bulletins of significant tree work, planting and other general advice.

**Review points – We consult wherever possible when extensive or significant works are being carried out, expanding the Tree Page of Wrexham website to incorporate bulletins of significant tree work, planting and other general advice has not been possible to date due to other demands on the service.**

Produce a series of educational information leaflets and fliers, to be available in paper form and or on the internet and update as necessary.

**Review points – We aim to produce a tree information leaflet aimed at primary school aged children during 2011 and distribute to schools and make available on the internet. We had hoped to produce this during 2010 but this has not been possible due to other demands on the service. A tree benefits & tree maintenance leaflet is currently available on the internet.**