



GONÇALO PEREIRA

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**The Importance &
Effectiveness of
Community
Engagement in Local
Authority Policy &
Practice.**

Community Engagement in Local Authority Policy & Practice

- ▶ Overview
 - ▶ The challenge
 - ▶ The costs v the benefits;
 - ▶ Guidance, past and current;
- ▶ Key results of national survey
- ▶ Case studies
- ▶ Challenges and opportunities
- ▶ The Framework approach in Epping District



Birmingham
Trees for Life

PLEASE SAVE ME!

I have taken nearly 100 years to grow this sap and I am valued at over £106,000!

I have taken nearly 100 years to grow this sap and I am valued at over £106,000!

For more information visit www.birminghamtreesforlife.org.uk







02/12/2015 13:43

Community Engagement in LA Policy & Practice: the advice

- ▶ Urban Tree Strategies; Research for Amenity Trees, No. 3. (Land Use Consultants for DoE 1994)
 - ▶ Focus on council owned land & trees
 - ▶ Little on consultation; nothing on positive engagement
- ▶ Greening the City- A Guide to Good Practice (GFA Consulting etc for DoE 1996)
 - ▶ Drew on “Local Agenda 21”- which emphasised community engagement
 - ▶ Emphasised partnerships with communities/ groups, and “stewardship”
 - ▶ LAs to identify the range of needs of their communities, and develop a tailored range of approaches to meet them

Community Engagement in LA Policy & Practice: Greening The City, chapter 6.2

The 5 step “ladder of involvement”

1. **Information:** a largely 1 way flow from decision makers to the community
2. **Consultation:** comments are invited, usually on limited options, with little community input into decision- making
3. **Deciding together:** joint decision making
4. **Acting together:** partnership based management and/ or delivery
5. **Enabling:** the community acts independently, but with official support

Community Engagement in LA Policy & Practice: the advice

- ▶ A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods & Forests (DEFRA 2007)
 - ▶ 4 key objectives include:
 - ▶ “involving local people in planning, managing and using woodland and the trees in streets and green spaces, to help achieve more cohesive communities...”
 - ▶ Policies include to:
 - ▶ “help people to engage with the ownership, design, management maintenance and use of their local trees and woodlands as part of their vision for their own neighbourhood...”
 - ▶ “promote and support the role of trees as a catalyst for community building...”
 - ▶ Can be seen as validating the community forest approach to urban forestry

Community Engagement in LA Policy & Practice: the advice

- ▶ Trees in the Townscape- A Guide for Decision Makers (Trees and Design Action Group No 2, 2012)
 - ▶ 2 (of 12)- **Have a Comprehensive Tree Strategy**
 - ▶ Emphasises community engagement and covering the entire urban forest (including privately owned trees)
 - ▶ 9 - **Create Stakeholders**
 - ▶ Objective: Work with local political professional and community stakeholders to champion the value of trees in the townscape
 - ▶ Benefits:
 - ▶ Power is in numbers
 - ▶ Reduces pressure on internal resources
 - ▶ Wider range of partners
 - ▶ Potential for additional funding or delivery capacity
 - ▶ Reduces conflicts and complaints associate with nuisance trees
 - ▶ Case studies: Hackney & Brick Lane, London; Plymouth; Leeds; Oxford

The European Landscape Convention- Council of Europe, Treaty no 176, December 1st 2009

The European Landscape Convention states:

- ▶ the value of a landscape – that is, an area the character of which is the result of the action and interaction of natural or human factors – is only fully realized with the active participation of the local community. Urban landscapes – built or open, public or private – interact continuously with urban communities, both directly and indirectly.
- ▶ Therefore, community involvement should not an option but a paradigm in the governance of cities and urban landscapes.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Guidelines on urban and peri-urban forestry



FAO
FORESTRY
PAPER

2014-2015

178

Guidelines on Urban and Peri Urban Forestry 2016- UN Food & Agriculture Organisation- Urban Forest Governance Types

▶ **Grassroots initiatives**

- ▶ Relatively small-scale initiatives on public land, started and maintained autonomously by local residents

▶ **Organization-initiated grassroots**

- ▶ Social enterprises or non-governmental organizations mobilizing community action, located in focus and power between co-governance and grassroots initiatives

▶ **Co-governance**

- ▶ Partnerships between municipalities and citizens or grassroots organizations, with power shared among actors

▶ **Green hubs**

- ▶ Experimental creative coalitions connecting networks and knowledge to develop community and nature based solutions

Guidelines on Urban and Peri Urban Forestry 2016- UN Food & Agriculture Organisation

- ▶ **Public–private partnerships for green services**
 - ▶ Maintenance or development obligations for businesses in exchange for a formalized right to use green spaces (or the values thereof) for profit
- ▶ **Municipalities mobilizing social capital**
 - ▶ Strategic planning instruments to invite grassroots organizations and individuals to participate in place-making and place-keeping, where trees are a key issue

Guidelines on Urban and Peri Urban Forestry 2016- UN Food & Agriculture Organisation

- ▶ Lists tangible benefits potentially derived from effective community involvement:
 - ▶ information and ideas on public issues;
 - ▶ public support for planning decisions;
 - ▶ avoidance of protracted conflicts and costly delays;
 - ▶ the creation of a reservoir of goodwill that can carry over to future decisions;
 - ▶ the collaborative management of public goods, thereby reducing the cost of administration interventions;
 - ▶ the enhancement of the spirit of cooperation and trust among institutions, agencies and the public;
 - ▶ lifelong learning benefits via capacity building and awareness-raising;
 - ▶ the valuing of local knowledge; and
 - ▶ the strengthening of a sense of volunteerism in the care of public goods.

Guidelines on Urban and Peri Urban Forestry 2016- UN Food & Agriculture Organisation

Telford new town

When the new town of Telford (“the forest city”) was created in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the 1960s, its designers imagined a landscape veined with woodlands, parks and green spaces. This pioneering vision of a “green network” was made real through the planting of around 6 million trees and 10million shrubs. In addition to natural regeneration on former mining and industrial areas, these plantings created an urban landscape in which people and wildlife could live together, and they linked the Wrekin and Ercall hills to the west and the thickly wooded River Severn valley to the south. The green network is under threat, however. Telford’s population is expected to grow to 200 000 within a generation (larger than the cities of Oxford and Newcastle today), putting pressure on the town’s wild places.

Source: Simson (2000)

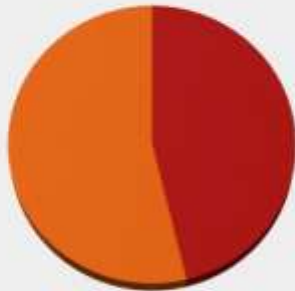


National Survey 2014 Q9

If there is an agreed strategy with formal goals, do you seek community views as part of the process of setting the goals?

Yes 46%

No- 54%

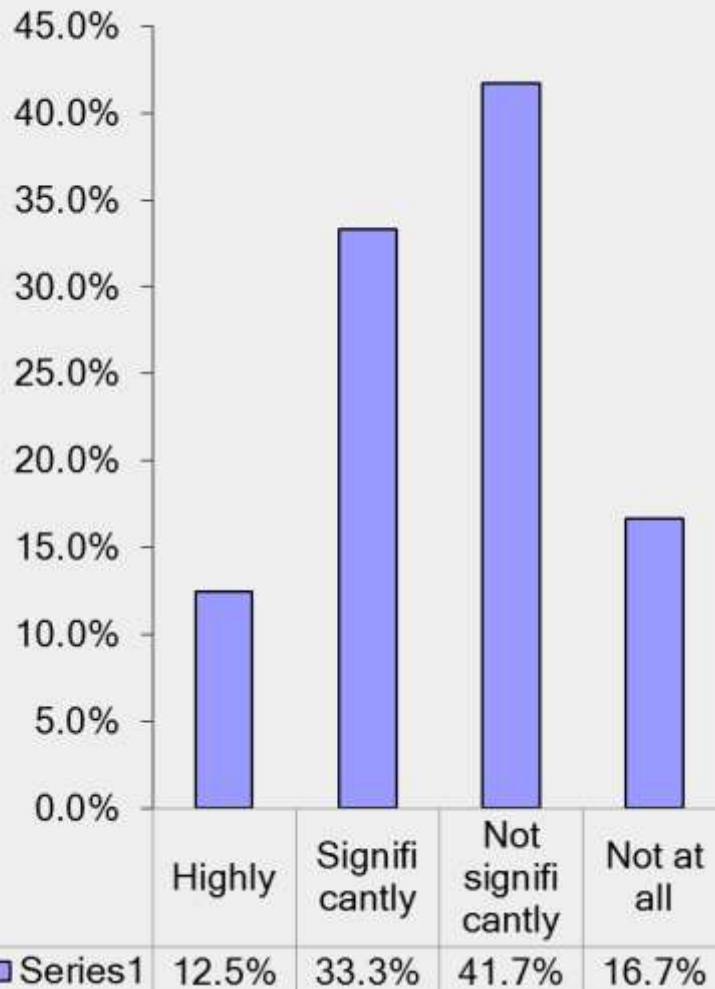


■ Yes

■ No

- ▶ Policy is set by Cllrs.
- ▶ The strategy has yet to be formally adopted- community views would be sought prior to submission to elected members.
- ▶ Currently writing strategy - we have not involved the public to date.
- ▶ We are currently in the process of drawing up a tree strategy. We have acquired some additional funding to tackle some long-standing issues that up to now we simply have not had the resources to deal with. We are aware that where we can, we should seek the views of the community in preparing a work plan

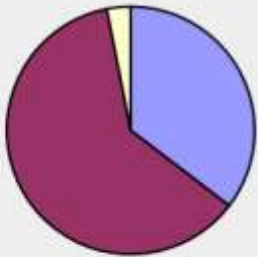
Q10 If you sought community views for your tree strategy, how much do you believe the strategy benefitted from community input?



- ▶ We tend to discuss tree issues at a micro-local level.... Residents are often keen to have a say, although it can frequently be irrelevant to the general objectives
- ▶ Gives the strategy greater weighting, particularly if significant numbers have responded to consultation
- ▶ This has not been done to my knowledge.
- ▶ We had very little feedback
- ▶ Unsure community engagement was carried out before my appointment
- ▶ Our tree management plan is approved by the council's cabinet with public consultation every time it's reviewed
- ▶ We are in the process of consultation
- ▶ The tree strategy itself will be primarily an internal document to help prioritise the allocation of the tree budget

Q 11: When you are considering options for potentially contentious tree management/ felling would you seek local views before deciding what to do?

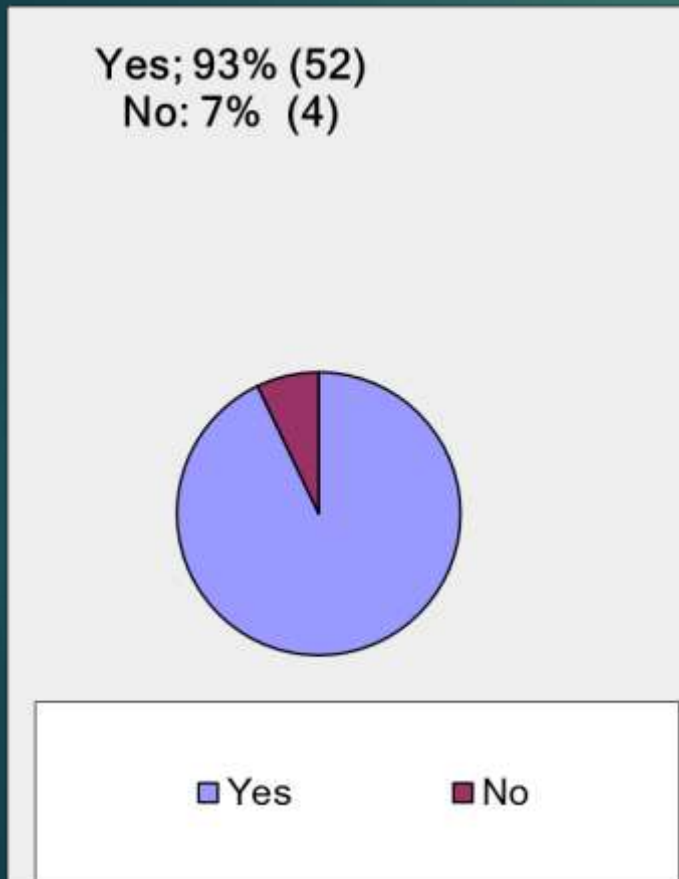
Always: 35%
Sometimes: 62%
Never: 3%



■ Always ■ Sometimes ■ Never

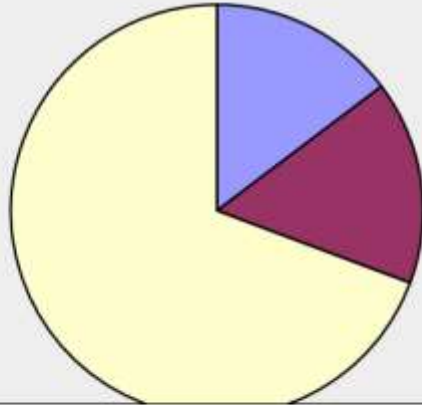
- ▶ We notify. We do not consult
- ▶ Depends- if there are potential options for retaining the tree (i.e. excluding/moving targets) then consultation via community assembly, parks friends group or TPO process (if applicable)
- ▶ If trees are not dangerous and the community has historically taken an interest in tree issues we would likely consult
- ▶ Tend to notify rather than seek views. Makes more work if you don't, although what can be considered contentious is sometimes hard to judge.
- ▶ We always inform local members and put a notice on all trees to be felled on the highway
- ▶ We are currently looking at some major tree removal programmes and this will go to public
- ▶ Consultation to ensure the public's buy in
- ▶ Just occasionally the tree in question is in such a condition that for safety reasons it is worked on without local views even if it may be contentious. there is not enough time to seek views
- ▶ We consult if there are viable options. If the felling is essential for safety then we would inform rather than consult.
- ▶ We nearly always try to communicate this either directly or through tree wardens , or by visibly identifying trees to be removed, or a letter to invite comment to residents and local councillors

Q16 If you have involved the community at any stage in tree planting projects, do you intend to continue to do so?



- ▶ no large scale involvement to date...just informal discussion...depending on the nature of the site.
- ▶ Where there are active parks friends groups or other community interest groups, schools and through events linked to National Tree Week.
- ▶ 6 large scale woodland planting only of whips. Major percentage planted by contractors to achieve deadlines and quality
- ▶ Buy in is essential, and helps raise the tree agenda with local cllrs.
- ▶ With some but not all schemes
- ▶ We have a number of schemes which local schools or "Friends" groups are involved in. Makes it easier for maintenance etc.
- ▶ Only in areas off the network which is a very minimal amount of the soft estate
- ▶ We planted 1500 free Woodland Trust trees during National Tree Week. Our local carbon groups and schools applied for the trees.
- ▶ We will continue with planting with schools and donated tree scheme.

Do you have local tree strategies, dealing with the community's views and expectations for tree cover in their local areas?



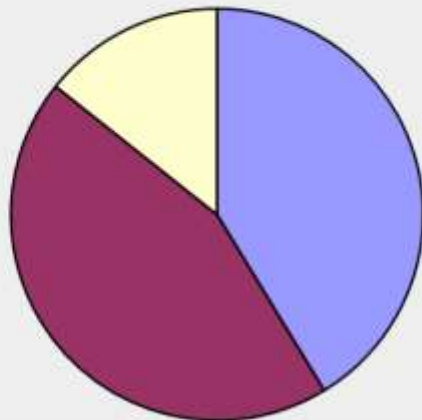
■ Yes ■ In part □ No

Are there any schemes to help protect trees by non statutory means (e.g. celebrating special trees)?



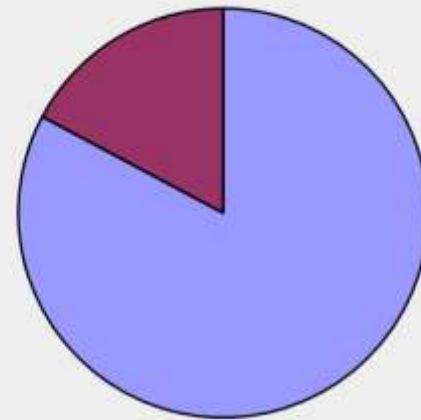
■ Yes ■ No

Do you work to your own informal goals for overall tree cover in specific areas?



■ Yes, ■ In part □ No

If you have tried any of these approaches, do you intend to continue to use them?



■ Yes ■ No

Tree Warden Scheme



- Started in 1990 by The Tree Council
- Run in partnership with Local Authorities and the community
- Over 8000 Tree Wardens
- Local tree 'Champions'
- Community resource for all tree professionals
- With the landscape scale change of Ash Dieback community engagement will be vital
- Funding available to community groups that is not available to local authorities
- A volunteer skills base that could be developed eg 'Level 1' Arb certificate?



The Tree Council









Trees for Cities





Trees for Cities















@thetreehunter

© Rob McBride



Condemned!
The Council is aware of the poor condition of the building and the need for urgent repairs. It is therefore necessary to condemn the building and to demolish it. The Council is aware of the need for urgent repairs and the need to demolish the building. The Council is aware of the need for urgent repairs and the need to demolish the building. The Council is aware of the need for urgent repairs and the need to demolish the building.



SB10 XRH

YD06 UNW







SAVE
ME

SAVE
ME

SAVE
ME

Howden House, Floor 2,
1 Union Street, Sheffield, S1 2SH
Tel: 0114 273 4567
Email: streetsahead@sheffield.gov.uk
www.sheffield.gov.uk/streetsahead
@sccstreetsahead



working
with



Tree Replacement Information

This tree has been professionally inspected and needs to be removed from the highway for the following reason:

**The tree is damaging surrounding structures.
(e.g. Kerb, footpath, boundary walls)**

Work is planned to start in approximately 2 weeks' time

As a result of the removal a **replacement tree will be planted**

Replacement Location – Every tree we remove will be replaced with a suitable size and species as close to the original position as possible.

Planting Time – We will plant new trees when they are most likely to root successfully, which is between October and March.

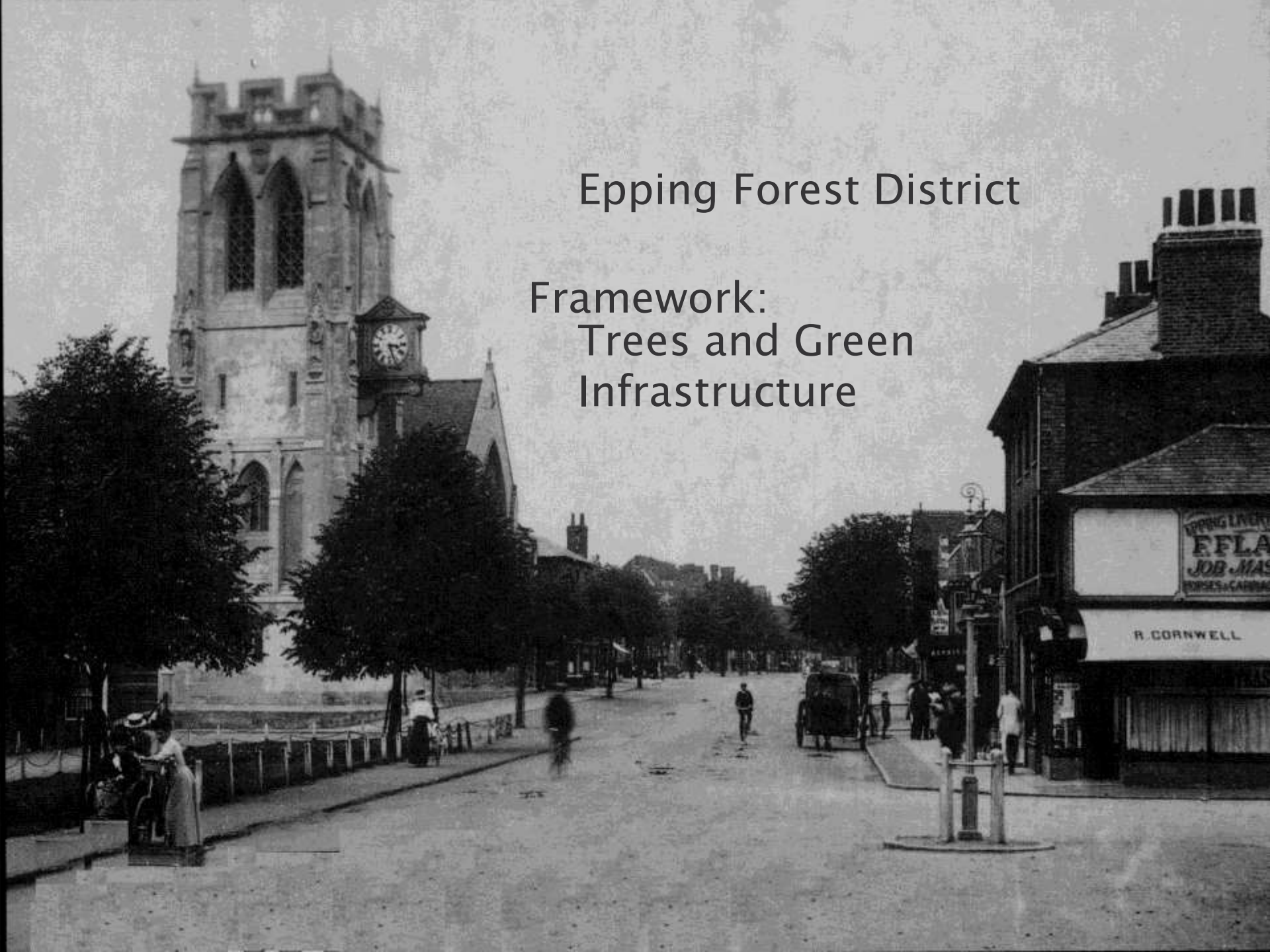
Be Assured - We do not encourage the removal of trees.

Tree Disease & Damage – A tree that is damaged or diseased may be removed if it is a risk to public safety or the environment.



Epping Forest District

Framework: Trees and Green Infrastructure





Epping Forest *Countrycare*

a service provided by Epping Forest District Council

30th Annual Report 2015 – 2016



Volunteer Team of the Year 2016





Theydon's New Trees Need A Drink

**PLEASE HELP
BY WATERING A NEW TREE IN
A VERGE NEAR YOU**

**TWO OR MORE BUCKETS OF
WATER *SLOWLY Poured*
TWICE A WEEK IN VERY HOT WEATHER!
WILL HELP THE TREES TO SURVIVE**

**IF WE DON'T LOOK AFTER
OUR TREES WE MAY LOSE THEM**

**THIS IS A PLEA FROM YOUR VOLUNTARY TREE WARDENS
THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP THEYDON BOIS
A LOVELY PLACE TO LIVE IN.**

Oak at Chigwell

(*Quercus robur*) Tree Warden David Wixley



"My reason for picking this tree is simply the enormous girth of its trunk. I'm sure there are bigger oak trees, but I can't recall seeing one.

It must be very old, and if it could talk would have much to tell us. Situated close to 'The King's Head', the model for the 'Maypole' in the Charles Dickens book 'Barnaby Rudge' I think we can be confident that Dickens would have known this tree.

Despite some damage it looks in good health still, even though it is on a verge sandwiched between a busy road and a tennis court, lapping its base on the other.

Its majestic appearance represents a triumph of nature against the incursions of man. Long may it survive!"

David Wixley
Tree Warden



A veteran tree is "a tree that is of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of its age, size or condition". It has been estimated that the UK has 80% of Europe's veteran tree population. This veteran tree measures 5.9 metres (19'3") in girth (measured at 1.5m (5') from the ground).







LOUGHTON COMMUNITY TREE STRATEGY

Epping Forest District Council
www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk



Aims

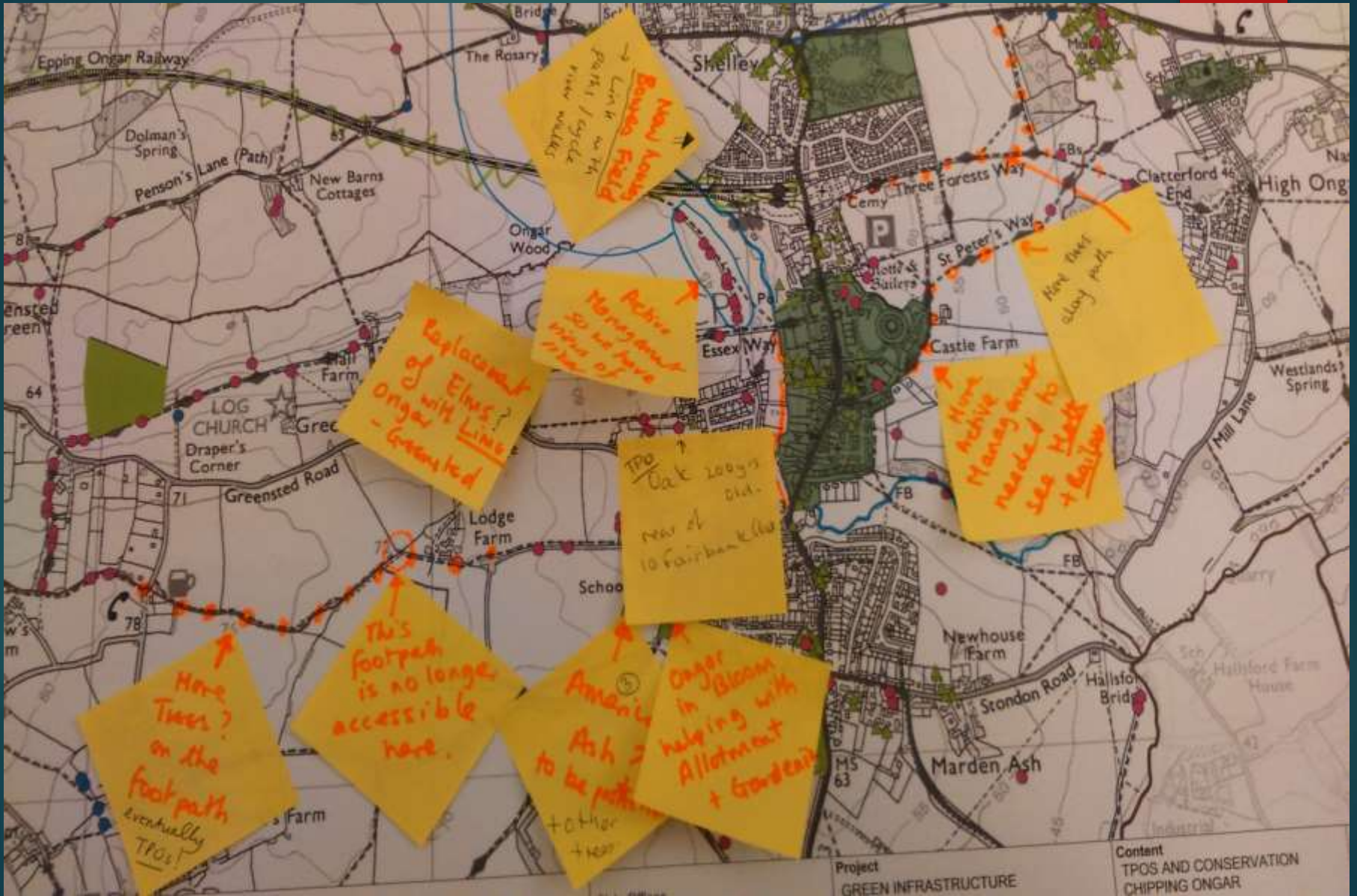
A1	To protect what we have in terms of open spaces and trees
A2	To increase the overall tree cover in urban areas and the countryside
A3a	To create a well-connected green infrastructure across the entire Epping Forest District.
A3b	To create a multi-functional green infrastructure across the entire Epping Forest District.
A4	To increase public engagement and access to the Green Infrastructure

Guiding principles

G1	Community
G2	Connectivity
G3	Accessibility
G4	Resilience
G5	Multi-functionality







New housing
Brown Field
part of cycle
route with
river walking

Replacement
of Elms?
Ongar Line
- Greensted

Active
Management
so we have
view of
river

TPO
Cat 2009's
old.
new of
10 Fairbankley

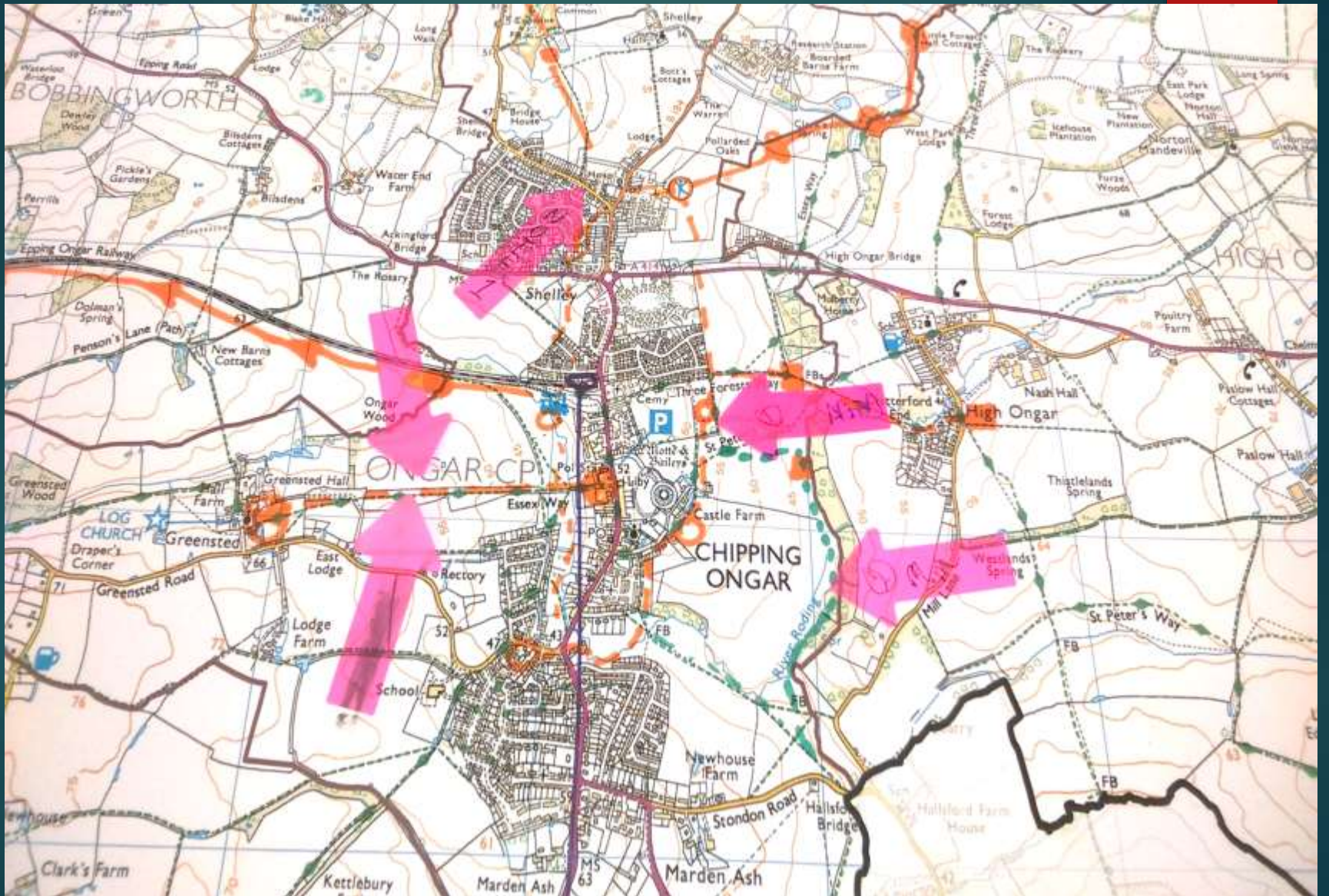
More
Archive
Money needed
to see Masts
+ Baylow

More
Trees?
on the
footpath
eventually
TPO!

This
footpath
is no longer
accessible
here.

Armenia
Ash 2
to be path
+ other
+ trees

Ongar
in bloom
helping with
Allotment
+ Greensted



Epping and Epping Upland Aims

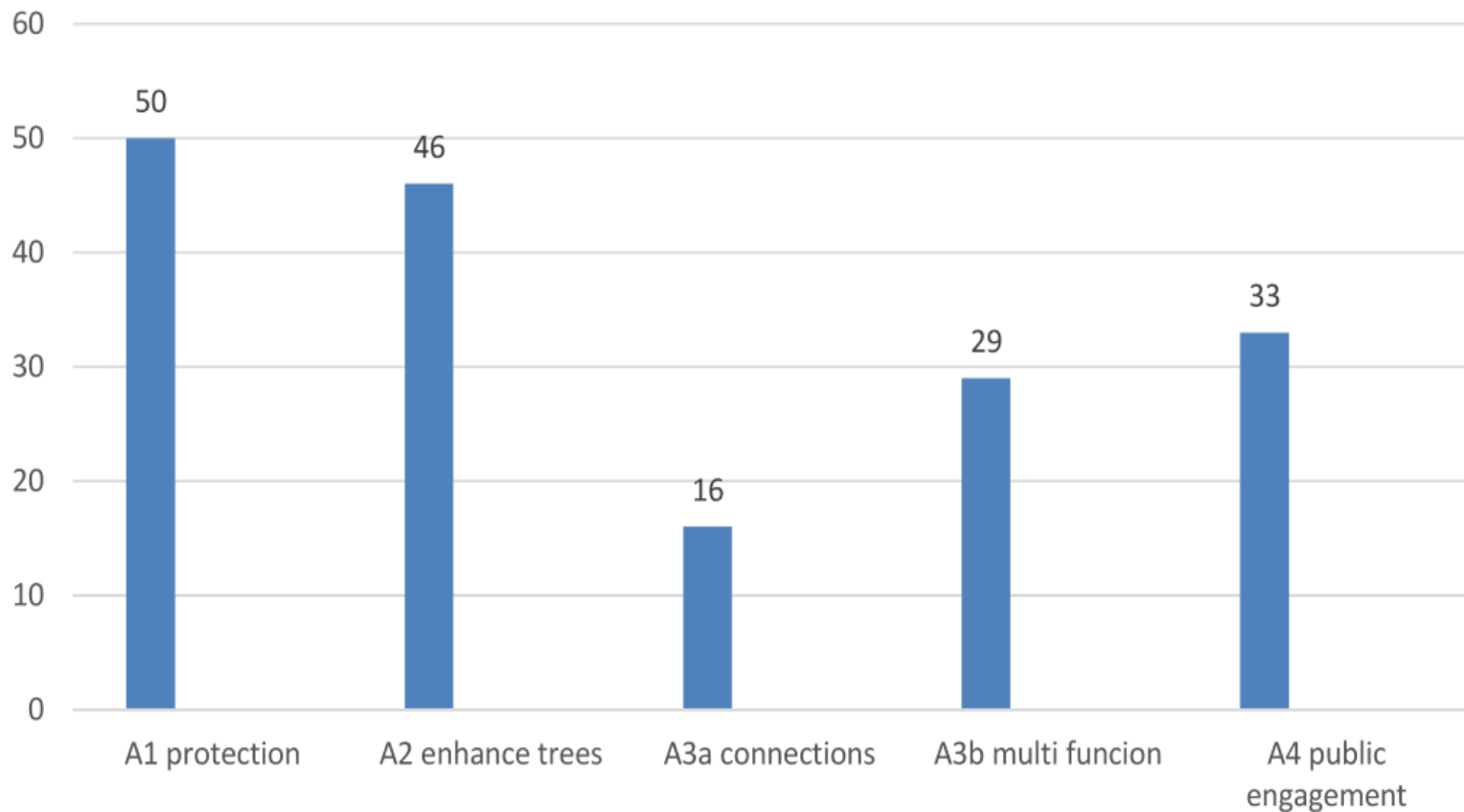


Chart 1 – areas discussed for Aims

Epping and Epping Upland Guiding principles

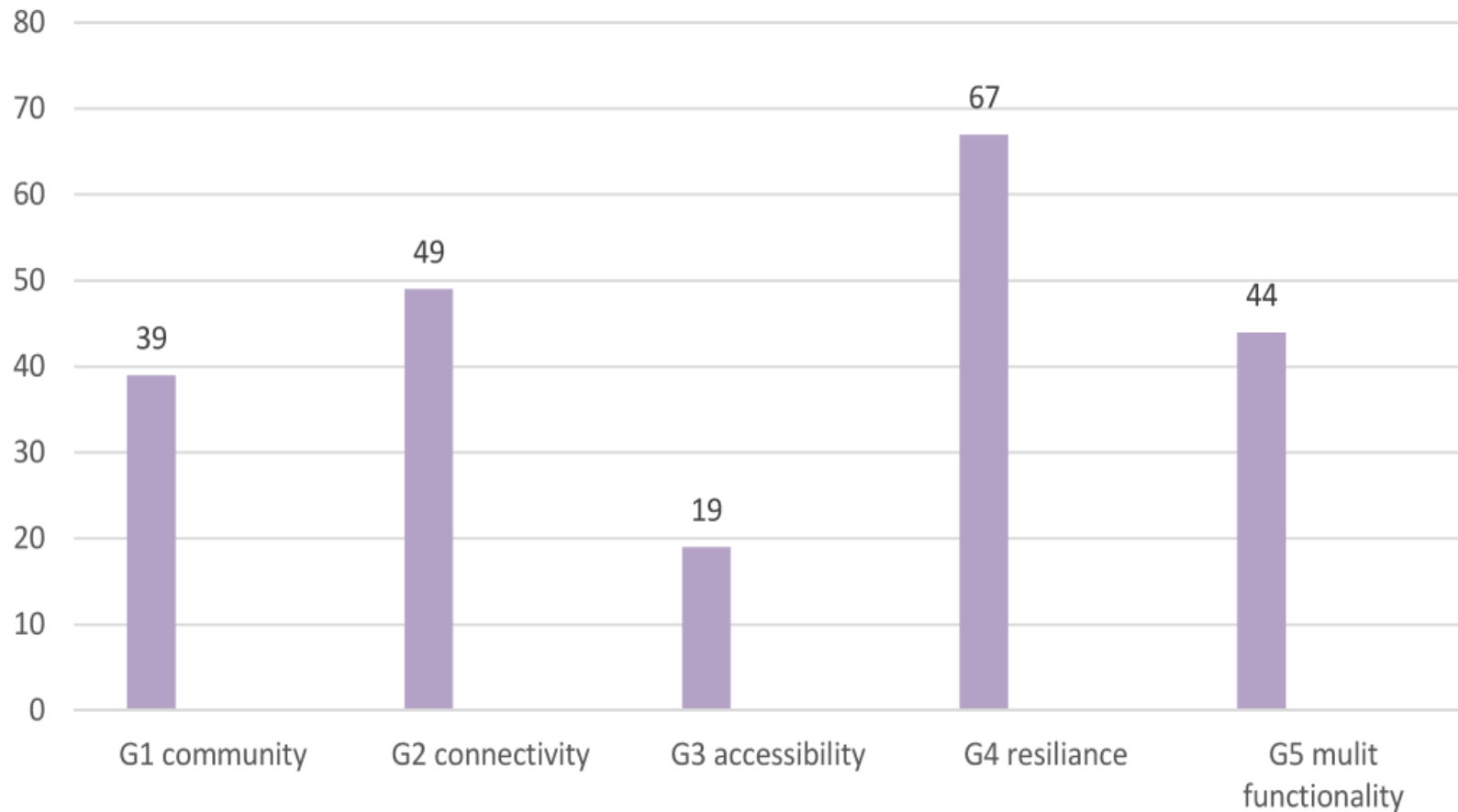
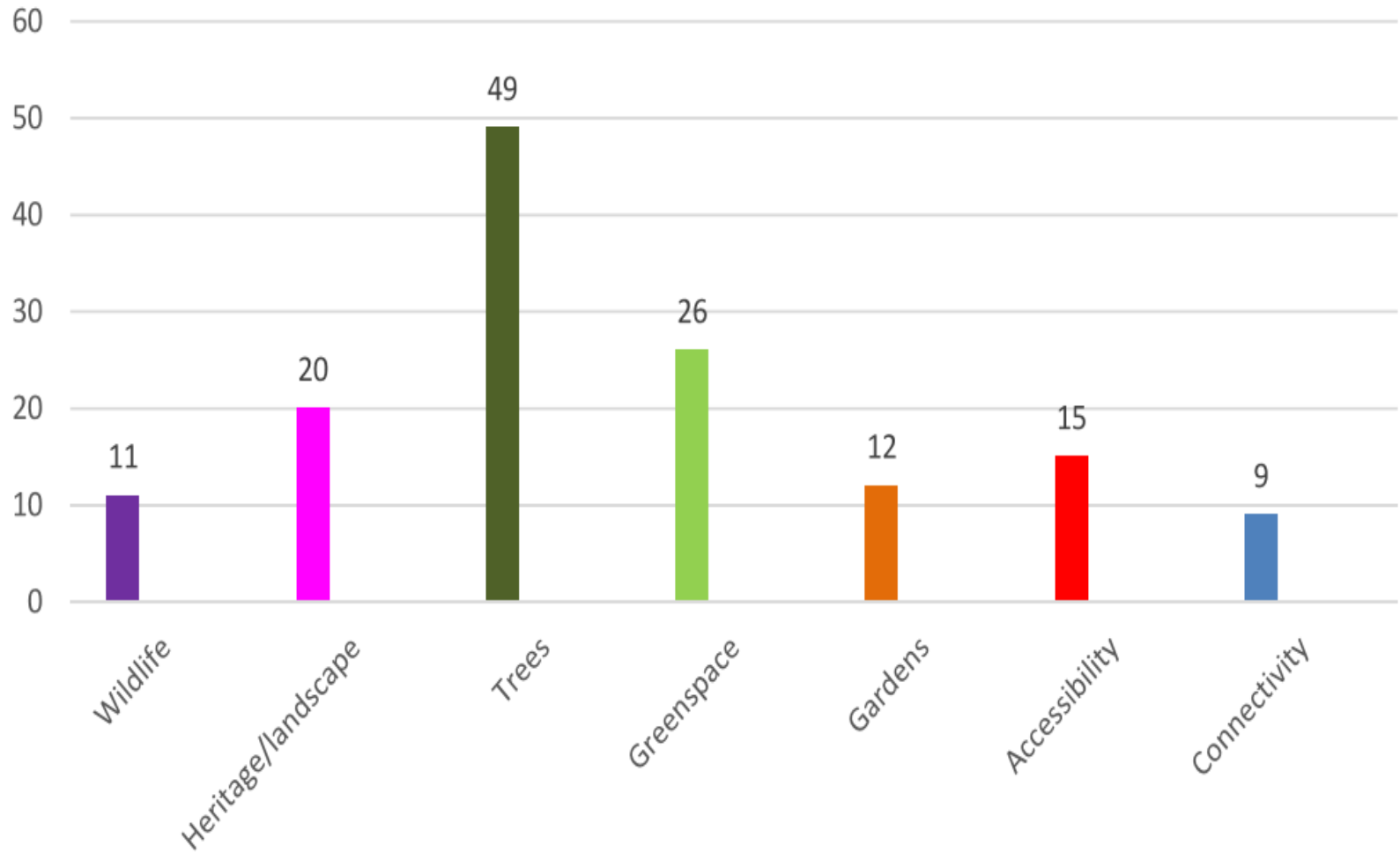


Chart 2 – areas discussed for guiding principles

Epping and Epping Upland Themes for action



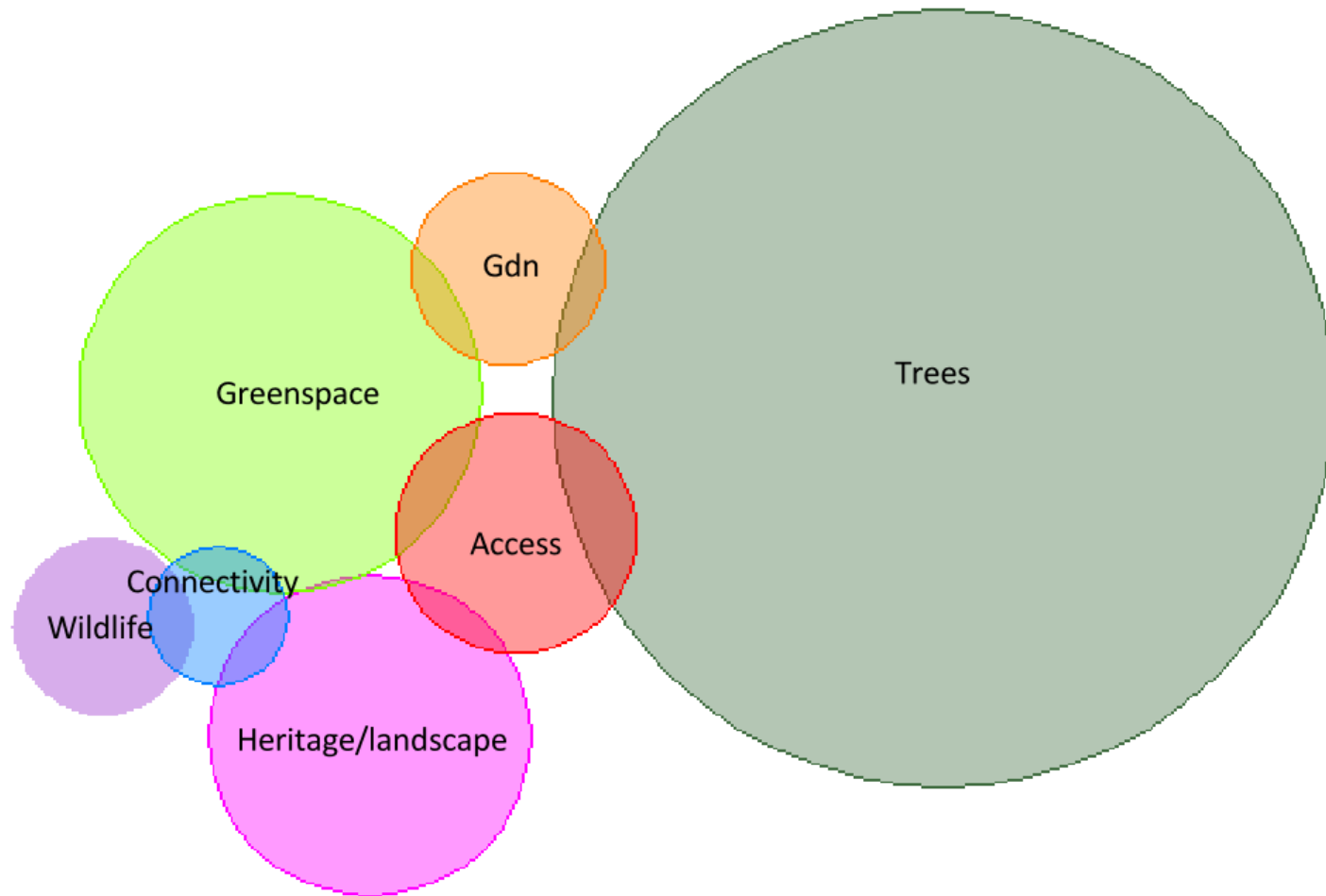


Figure 1 showing the interconnectivity and overlap of some of the factors discussed



Thank you!

