

Tackling the threats to London's Trees: a summary of the conference and outcomes

1 Introduction

"Tackling the threat to London's trees" was held on the 24th January 2013 at the Guildhall, City of London. The FC London team were planning on running a tree health event in 2013, and had started planning in summer 2012, but it was accelerated in light of London OPM efforts and the outbreak of Chalara Ash Dieback.

The FC was very fortunate to have the support of stakeholders, particularly Sue Ireland and the City of London who provided the fantastic venue free of charge, plus sector sponsors that helped ensure the conference was free to attendees.

The FC would like to repeat it thanks to the City of London, sponsors (Gristwood & Toms and Bartletts) and the GLA for supporting the event.

The conference attracted nearly 200 delegates to hear from eminent speakers, in a full programme that included the opportunity for questions and answers.

A further 100 people (who either wanted to attend but there wasn't space or they couldn't make it) were kept informed by email of the conference outcomes and presentations.



*Tony Kirkham:
What do I plant next?*

2 Summary of the event

Conference objectives were to:

- give attendees an update on the latest situation regarding key threats affecting the capital's main tree species (London plane, Oak and ash); highlight the increase in P&Ds on recent years
- highlight the practical action we can take to address these threats
- discuss how we can improve our response through information sharing, cross sector collaborative action, involving the public and resilience planning

London: Summary of conference on tackling the threats to London's trees

- discuss the particular issues and opportunities that arise in the urban forest environment, including biosecurity, tree trade
- and global markets; Sector and community involvement in tackling P&Ds; Resilience planning – tree species and silviculture

Conference programme

The conference was opened by Mark Boleat, Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee, City of London.

The opening address was by Sir Harry Studholme, Forestry Commission Chairman. PDF copies of the day's presentations are below via links:

- Martin Ward – [the plant health legislative framework](#)
- Dr John Morgan – [the current and future range of tree pests & diseases](#)
- Jake Tibbetts – [Biology of Massaria and Islington Borough experience](#)
- Jago Keen – [City of London survey and management of Massaria](#)
- Dr Joan Webber – [Acute Oak Decline](#)
- Nigel Straw – [Oak Processionary Moth](#)
- Sue Ireland – [The Oak Processionary Moth Advisory Group](#)
- Dr Joan Webber – [Biology of chalara and distribution](#)
- Bruce Rothnie – [the Chalara interim control plan](#)
- Jim Smith – [Biosecurity in the urban environment](#)
- Tony Kirkham – [What tree do I plant next?](#)
- Dr Linda Davis – [Public awareness and involvement](#)
- Peter Massini – [Can't see the wood for the trees?](#)



Panel Q&A session

Concluding messages

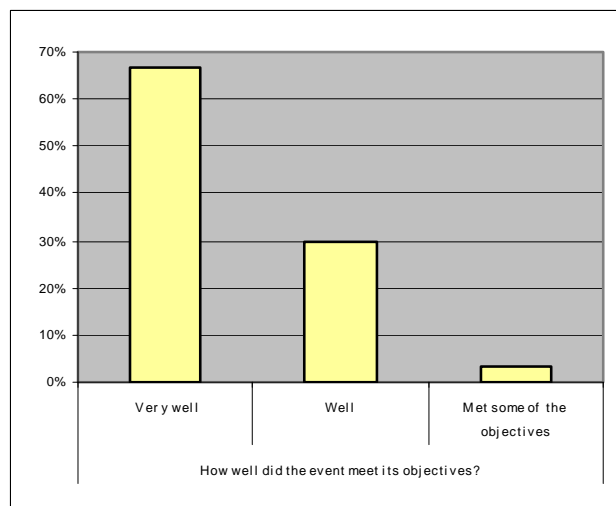
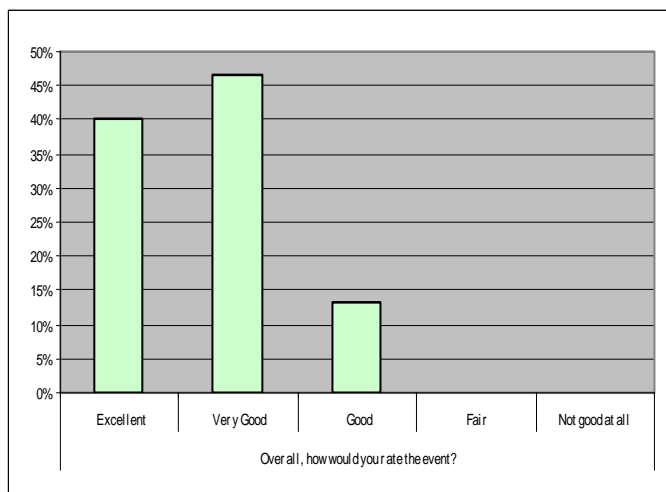
Andrew Jones of the GLA gave the concluding remarks, with key points being:

- lots of great information and research disseminated today
- it highlights the challenges we face
- the need for different knowledge, management, information, response in different circumstances and different threats
- interesting to note how chalara has raised the profile with public and politicians
- we need to tease out our response to these threats in the urban environment
- the event highlighted the value of collaboration both strategically and on the ground
- OPM arguably will have more impact than chalara in London
- there is a public desire to respond to a cause such as the riots and they love trees
- the need for political engagement and adequate resources to tackle the threats our trees face
- the need for future planning through resilience and diversity
- the need to recognise that the future streetscape will look different

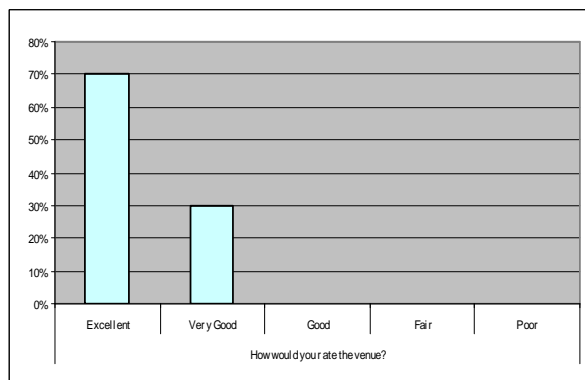
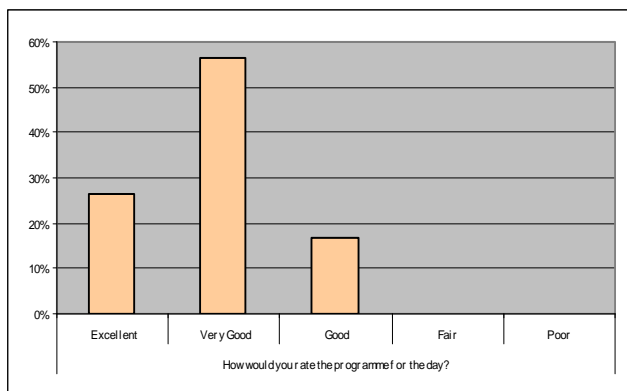
3 Post Conference feedback and evaluation

Quantitative feedback

- 87% of respondents rated the conference excellent or very good
- 97% of respondents said the event met its objectives very well or well



- 100% of respondents rated the conference programme as good to excellent
- 100% of respondents rated the venue excellent or very good



Qualitative feedback - quotes

..."one of the most interesting conferences that I have been at in a long time"

"I thoroughly enjoyed yesterday and learnt a lot from all of the speakers. Congratulations on a super conference"

"Yesterday was an excellent, thought-provoking and useful session, though recognising this is just the beginning!"

"Thank you for Thursday's excellent and informative conference."

"I found the event hugely valuable and enjoyed it."

"One of the most informative events I have been to for years, with expert speakers, good organisation and a fantastic venue - well done!"



*Nigel Straw:
OPM presentation*

4 Further information

- [Event flyer](#)
- [Event speaker profiles](#)
- [Event programme](#)
- [Event attendee list](#)



The event received financial support from City of London, Gristwood & Toms and Bartlett Tree Experts

