

# FC London Annual Review for 2016-17

## Purpose

This review provides a summary of activity during 2016-17, based on the FC London work plan published at the beginning of the year. Thank you to everyone who has helped us; without collaboration these achievements would not have been possible.

## 1 Tree Health

### Oak Processionary Moth

- We delivered the agreed OPM control programme, utilising ~£1.3M of funding. The operational report for 2016 is available on the [OPM website](#). As well as direct activity, we supported a range of research and evidence gathering activities, and delivered a suite of stakeholder engagement events and newsletters.
- In November 2016 OPM internal governance was strengthened by creating 3 working groups – operations, evidence and policy – that feed into the OPM Programme Board, chaired by the Chief Plant Health Officer. The FC are heavily engaged in all of the groups and hence influencing evidence and policy development work on top of operational delivery.

### Supporting others and Biosecurity

- [Plane wilt survey](#) – continued partnership with LTOA who inspect and report to FC GB Plant Health on London plane wilt. This makes best use of each organisations powers & resources
- A [Tree Health Conference](#) “Reducing the impact of new and future tree threats” was held at RHS Wisley Gardens on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and included biosecurity

*RHS Wisley*



- In summer 2016 we found Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp in London and garnered partner support for vigilance and reporting of suspect trees

## 2 Regulations

- Felling Licences administered with associated consideration of other regulations such as Environmental Impact Assessment, Countryside and Rights of Way, Forest Reproductive Materials and Plant Health

## 3 Resilience

### i-Tree

- We continue to disseminate the results of the [London i-Tree report](#) within and beyond London, and regularly see the findings reported in media by others too.

- In November 2016 Craig Harrison gave a presentation on the London i-Tree report at the 1<sup>st</sup> International Forest City Convention in Shenzhen, China

*Lianhuashan Park & Central District, Shenzhen. From being a fishing port of 30,000 people in 1980, the city now has a population of over 14 million but also 41% forest cover*



- The London report has highlighted some of the many benefits that London's urban forest delivers and has enabled us to enter discussions with a range of stakeholders on agendas such as air quality, carbon budgets and flood reduction
- We are involved in the Ealing i-Tree study steering group and providing advice based on London study experience. The Ealing study will be conducted during 2017/18

## 4 Sustainable Woodland Management

### London Wood Enterprise Network

- Catalysed by the [London Woodland Evidence study](#) and summary report, we have facilitated the development of the London Wood Enterprise Network. The network includes people and organisations from the London wood supply chain, from woodland owners such as Boroughs through to end users such as furniture makers



- The network, though in early stages, has already highlighted a significant demand for sustainable London timber and that there is a healthy (often high value) end market for products. We are supporting further development of the network, including production of factsheets to answer common questions e.g. is there a sustainable timber supply

### Mayor’s Community Grant Scheme

- We provided technical support including membership of the GLA grant panel to assess and improve proposals to manage woodlands, orchards and other existing trees in London

### Woodland grants

- We have promoted the Countryside Stewardship scheme and how it can help with management of London’s woodlands during the evidence study, though feedback has highlighted that the support package is not aligned to urban situations e.g. lack of public access support, scale of woodlands
- We continued to manage legacy grant schemes to ensure woodland management activity is being carried out as agreed

## 5 Expansion

- We have been working with the Greater London Authority and other organisations to assess the opportunities for woodland creation and tree planting in London. It has highlighted there is land available in principle; further work is needed to assess whether these sites are realistic given other socio-economic drivers, and develop an understanding of what is needed to catalyse land use change
- We continue to promote and support delivery of financial incentives such as Countryside Stewardship and Woodland Carbon Fund, as well as alternative funding sources such as the woodland carbon code through landowner and organisation liaison
- We supported the Mayor’s Community Grant Scheme, providing advice on the grant panel and how proposals could be enhanced e.g. promotion of the benefits of large canopy trees where conditions permit. This year the scheme supported the planting of 40,000 trees



*King Georges Fields, Ealing.*

*Tree planting funded through the Community Grant Scheme and delivered by Trees for Cities.*



## 6 Business Management & Development

The [London Tree & Woodland Awards 2016](#) #TreeOscars was a great success, with fantastic winning projects/people and coverage in national sector news / general media. Case studies of the winners were published on the FC website and are regularly used to promote / inspire others intent on planting and managing trees in London

*Trees for Cities receiving their award at City Hall in May 2016. From left to right: Sir Harry Studholme (Chair of the Forestry Commission) Kate Halahan (Trees for Cities), Matthew Demorais (Unilever), Holly Sutcliffe (Unilever), David Elliott Trees for Cities CEO), and James Morton (Ealing Council Ranger).*



- During [London Tree Week 2016](#) the FC hosted an OPM awareness event and supported events hosted by other organisations e.g. promoting woodland management at Lesnes Abbey
- The FC continues to chair the renamed [London Tree Partnership](#), helping ensure the London tree sector is working collaboratively. The group has continued to build its membership and discuss strategic matters as well as share information
- Supported the London Wildlife Trust in their successful HLF bid on the [Great North Wood](#) project and discussing opportunities to work together

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