

# **EAST ANGLIAN TREE WARDEN FORUM**

Saturday 30 September 2017

1000hrs to 1630 hours

Cockfield Village Hall, Cockfield IP30 0LA

As usual the forum opened with registration plus coffee and biscuits.

## **10:30 Welcome from Suffolk Tree Wardens and Tree Council**

### **10:35 Trees, their Values and the Tree Charter – Kristina Jansons-Binns: The Tree Council**

In this talk, Kristina outlined the 'Values of Trees' and how this relates to The Tree Charter which launched on 6 November 2017.

### **11:15 Involving communities in valuing trees. Gary Battel, Suffolk County Council**

Gary talked about his work in Suffolk developing a Tree Policy for the county and a project that he is involved in Ethiopia on community tree projects. Through both, he showed the importance of the value of trees, and the role the community has in protecting its treescape.

### **11:50 Comfort Break**

### **12:00 Tree Wardens in action: Sharing experience**

In this presentation, we heard from Tree Wardens across Suffolk who are involved in the conservation and management of the local trees, and the importance of engaging communities in the local trees.

### **12:30 Valuing trees: Treezilla – Jessica Goodenough: The Open University**

A partnership of organisations co-ordinated by The Open University in making an interactive 'monster map' of Britain's trees, to show how the trees near us benefit the local environment. In this talk, Jessica explained how the map pulls together many of the tree valuation threads and how this can be of use to a Tree Warden.

Jessica also showed Tree Wardens how to use the power of Treezilla and how you can put our community on the map.

### **13:20 Lunch**

### **14:00 Tree Wardens in action: Field excursion to Earls Meadow**

The village of Cockfield where the forum was held has a group of extremely active Tree Wardens and in the afternoon session, we looked at the projects they have undertaken and the value trees have in local communities.

### **16:30 Close**

We also received updated information on Ash Dieback (Chalara). It has been estimated it will take about 400 years for the ash trees to build up their own immune system to cope with Chalara. It appears that air-bourne virus primarily attack the leaf and works its way to the leaf petiole. Each virus then sets up a blocking mechanism to stop more viruses moving along it. It then moves into the branch area and the heart of the tree trunk. Once there the tree becomes fully infected over the next few years. Infected trees first show bare branches in the top areas and these become more and more pronounced with each season. In autumn the leaves fall and lay dormant until the following early spring. When the weather is right the old leaves fire bursts of new virus up into the air around the trees. These re-infect the host tree and other surrounding trees. These bursts happen daily for a short period between approximately 0700 to 1100hrs. In a 1 square acre area there could be as many as 4 trillion spores at any one time.



There are a number of infected ash trees in our area which are being monitored. There is no 'cure' for Chalara.