



# The Importance of Community Engagement roles in Urban Forestry

Catherine Nuttgens

# Linking Trees and People

- Different names: Community Forester/Tree Rangers/Woodland Creation Officers
- Increase urban canopy cover
- Foster well informed advocacy and care for trees amongst communities
- Promotes agency and inclusion amongst less affluent communities
- Provides a route into careers in arboriculture/forestry
- Provides link between LA operations and the public

Less of this



More of this



# WHO ARE THE KEY PLAYERS IN URBAN FORESTRY



# The Public



Knowledge of urban forestry: Low. Based on opinion - can also be framed or changed



Accountability: a citizen, pay taxes, obey the law etc.



Priorities: family, job, health and wellbeing



## The volunteer

– (aka tree warden, friends group, treeperson etc.)



Knowledge: detailed insights in specific places and people



Accountability: to give regular time to their group



Priorities: The effectiveness and continuation of the group's objectives



The campaigner



Knowledge: varies.  
Have taken action  
from information  
received about  
campaign issue.  
Angry.



Accountability: Varies –  
some totally committed  
to cause, others enjoy the  
ride and will disappear  
once campaign is over



Priorities:  
To win the  
campaign.





# The land managers

Highways, Parks, Housing etc



Knowledge of urban forestry: Medium. Trees as they fit into larger plans. Presented with problems caused by trees, not rewarded for the benefits they bring



Accountability: To council leaders and their duty as a professional



Priorities: Multiple. Proper functioning of estate, regulations, duty of care the public, delivering programme as dictated by the council and staying in budget. Reaching out for expertise when required



# The Tree Officer



Knowledge: high.  
Trees across city and  
some awareness of  
work and level of  
support of  
community groups  
and the public



Accountable: To the trees, the  
public and planning and as a  
professional.



Priorities: Health  
and safety, trees in  
planning,  
delivering specific  
tree projects  
sharing expertise  
where it is required



# The Community Forester



Knowledge: High. Maintains networks across community and officers. Specific local tree knowledge (planting, maintenance, citizen science etc.)



Accountable: To the community, to fellow officers and managers in organisation. To urban trees



Responsible: for activating the community to help urban forest flourish. Maintaining good communication between stakeholders

# PLANTING A COMMUNITY ORCHARD





REDEVELOPMENT THAT WILL  
CHANGE THE TREESCAPE



Well designed and meaningful  
consultation while managing  
expectations





DO WITH AND NOT TO

# Community Engagement roles Wish list

- Permanent roles so that relationships with communities can be developed across city
- Core funded
- Based in the same organisation as the tree officer and estate manager that make decisions in the landscape
- Responsibilities shouldn't be added to Tree Officer role unless time is allocated to carry out the role properly





Thanks for listening!

Catherine Nuttgens  
[catherine@nuttgens.uk](mailto:catherine@nuttgens.uk)

Any questions?