

FoBHC email sent 16.1.2020.

Subject: **Boggart Hole Clough lake & woodland**

To: Beth Kelsall, Delivery Co-ordinator, City of Trees [cityoftrees.org.uk - Community Forest Trust charity].

Copied to: Manchester City Council (MCC) North Area Parks Manager, MCC Charlestown & Blackley Engagement & Delivery Officer, MCC Charlestown Councillors, Boggart Hole Clough & David Lewis Rec Stakeholders Group, Environment Agency, Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, Forestry Commission, City of Trees, and Member of Parliament for Blackley & Broughton.

Blind carbon copied to: 80 people including some Friends of Boggart Hole Clough (FoBHC).

Beth,

Thanks for your 27.8.2019 email responding to FoBHC's 21.8.2019 enquiry submission to City of Trees website re funding for planting Lake-shading trees to help cool the Lake to reduce outbreaks of **Avian Botulism**; we referred to page 8 of *Revivifying the Lake* (FoBHC, 17.10.2018) which discusses this proposal in detail & provided a link to this PDF on our website - https://boggartholeclough.files.wordpress.com/2018/10/fobhc_17-10-2018_revivifying_the_lake.pdf Your email & our submission are reproduced below.

In your email you asked if we had permission from MCC to plant these proposed Lake-shading trees. Accordingly, 2.9.2019, I emailed Jon Atkin, MCC North Area Parks Manger, requesting permission to plant these trees. I copied you into that email & subsequent emails (13.9.2019, 14.10.2019 & 23.10.2019) reminding him of our request. But to no avail, we have received no answer from him regarding this request.

Regarding the woodland, the Clough contains *Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland* described by Natural England as "irreplaceable" & of "prime ecological & landscape importance." Ecologists report this woodland to be in an "**unfavourable condition**" - see Ecology Services UK Ltd's 2007 *Biodiversity Management Plan* on our website - https://boggartholeclough.files.wordpress.com/2008/03/boggart_hole_clough_biodiv_mgmnt_plan_final_draft.pdf This report is backed up by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit's 2016 *Ecological Assessment & Management Proposals*, which can also be seen on our website. Both reports highlight the prevalence of invasive non-native plant species as causing the woodland's *unfavourable condition*. From 2002 to 2013 we attempted to rectify this problem, which we had already identified, by running a group of conservation volunteers who began removing these invasive non-native species particularly *Rhododendron Ponticum*. However, overwhelmed by the scale of work required, we discontinued this direct hands-on approach, concentrating instead on trying to persuade MCC to employ a team of properly paid & trained conservationists to carry out this essential work, believing this to be the method most likely to succeed in restoring the woodland's biodiversity health.

The several emails below (including those sent 14.5.2019, 16.5.2019, 17.5.2019, 27.8.2019, 28.8.2019, 8.11.2019, 22.11.2019) show that, in partnership with MCC, we were moving towards applying for a Forestry Commission grant for the above described woodland management but the Parks Manager in the last email then suggested I contact City of Trees, although he hasn't responded to the City of Trees' question re Lake-shading trees outlined above.

So, besides the outstanding issue re Lake-shading trees, we're now also enquiring whether City of Trees can provide a grant for carrying out the urgently needed woodland conservation management at Boggart Hole Clough as discussed briefly above.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Peter.

P. F. Milner, Administrator, Friends of Boggart Hole Clough (FoBHC), 01612035009.

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The emails referred to as "below" are not included in this handout. Should you wish to read these emails, please email peterfmilner@hotmail.com & he will forward the above email, with referenced emails *below*, to you.