



savebristolzoogardens.org

Mayor Marvin Rees
Mayor's Office
City Hall
College Green
Bristol BS1 5TR

29 March 2023

Dear Mayor Rees

Bristol Zoo Gardens site - tree protection

We write in light of the recent acts of environmental vandalism against established trees by Plymouth and Sheffield City Councils, and the proposed destruction of an ancient orchard by Cambridge City Council.

Underlying the justifiable and widespread outrage that attends these events is a growing concern that some councils and local authorities cannot be relied upon either to protect the environmental heritage of their cities, nor to take notice of the concerns of their citizens before irreparable harm to the cityscape is caused.

Mature trees demand the same protection as heritage buildings.

Bristol Tree Forum anticipated the risk to trees posed by any proposed development at the Bristol Zoo site and called for all trees on the site to be covered by Tree Protection Orders in June 2021. Only 29 were, finally, protected.

The signatories below call on Bristol City Council - which has declared an Ecological Emergency and committed to doubling the tree canopy by 2046 - to place an Area Tree Protection Order on ALL the trees growing in the Bristol Zoo Gardens site with immediate effect.

You will be aware of the new People's Plan for Nature, which calls for nature to be considered in decision making at all levels. This initiative, with others that respond to our climate emergency, will become an irresistible force for change in planning policy.

Bristol of course, as the first and only Green Capital City in the UK, has a proud heritage of acting to protect its natural environment. Indeed, the Zoo Gardens have long been recognised as a potent symbol of the city's biodiversity and ecological awareness.

Bristol City Council's opportunity here is to become a beacon of best practice in working with all stakeholders to ensure that precious, historic, civic assets are protected. Extending TPOs to all trees at Bristol Zoo Gardens would be a visible sign of such leadership.

We look forward to your response as a matter of urgency.

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As a courtesy, copies of this letter go to the Chair of Trustees at Bristol Zoo, and to the Chair and members of Bristol City Council Development Control Committee A.

Yours sincerely

**Save Bristol Zoo Gardens campaign
Bristol Tree Forum
People and Cities
We Love Stoke Lodge
Friends of the Western Slopes
Bristol Friends of the Earth
Avon Needs Trees**

Please reply to;

**Save Bristol Zoo Gardens Campaign
c/o 17 Cornwallis Crescent
Bristol BS8 4PJ**

Cc: Charlotte Moar, Chair Bristol Zoological Society
Cllr Richard Eddy, Chair Development Control Committee A
Cllr John Geater
Cllr Paul Goggin
Cllr Fi Hance
Cllr Tom Hathway
Cllr Philippa Hulme
Cllr Farah Hussain
Cllr Ed Plowden
Cllr Andrew Varney

#SaveBristolZooGardens