

# Responses to David Elliott speaker questions from ‘Tried and tested solutions for a green recovery: Working with nature 2’ on 5 November 2020



	Response
<p>Couldn't it be made mandatory for all new build housing estates, where specific trees are identified on approved plans, are in fact planted, as per plan and maintained?</p>	<p>This is certainly the sort of legislation that we are aiming to get in writing. Something similar has gone into the new English Tree Strategy, which is currently in draft at DEFRA. There is a statement that all new roads will be tree lined, which is a step forward. New developments are supposed to create net environmental gain and so tree planting should generally be part of this, but like all these requirements they need to be enforced and often strengthened.</p>
<p>Local authorities and council tree strategies- How can we find out if there is a strategy in our area?</p>	<p>You should be able to Google it for your local authority as this should be a public document. If not go through your local authority website and if included. If not, try to find the contact for your local authority tree officer, or someone in a 'green team' and ask them directly.</p>
<p>you mentioned a dearth of specialists - what's the specific knowledge that's lacking, and how do you think this could be tackled?</p>	<p>From our experience it is not easy to find people with deep arboricultural and urban forestry skills and experiences. The relevant training courses and continuing professional development options are not extensive and hence the pool is relatively small. It would be great to see more institutions offering these sort of training courses and apprenticeships.</p>
<p>how important is it to ensure planting is native species in terms of biodiversity. Also other types of planting - hedges etc?</p>	<p>In the urban context we plant a wide variety of species, both native and non-native. It depends on what we are trying to achieve. For example, if helping mitigate air pollution is an objective then there are non-native species that may be better than natives in this regard (this is one of</p>

	<p>many examples). Also, many native species are under threat or suffering from pest and diseases and/or are not best suited for the urban environment, which limits the number of potential species. As we are adapting our cities to climate change there are non-native species that are likely to be more resilient to a warmer climate. Therefore, lots of reasons why a mix of species is used in cities.</p> <p>Specifically for biodiversity, native species do tend to be better as obviously the native invertebrates, birds etc. have coevolved for longer with these species.</p>
<p>Is a lot of the problem lack of education in society? People don't realise the impact of removing a tree, or paving over an area that was once grass, and so do so without thought? How can this be combated now?</p>	<p>Yes, education is so key across all environmental issues. It is clearly a huge challenge as there are so many different 'stakeholder groups' to educate and creating significant and lasting behaviour change is very difficult. We focus particularly on children as we hope to inspire the next generation of environmental lovers and protectors. I do feel that the more noise that can constantly be created by members of the public the more the change that we will see - so speak up whenever and however you can!</p>
<p>What can the ordinary person on the street do to help? Rewilding projects etc?</p>	<p>There is so much that can be done! There are obviously plenty of changes that people can make to their own lifestyles and environmental impact. There are many activities that can be undertaken to support environmental bodies, such as volunteering, financial support, signing petitions etc. You can write to key decision makers like your local MPs and Councillors. Even tiny rewilding projects in your garden can have an impact - the collection of such spaces even in the densest of urban settings can have a meaningful impact on nature and the environment...</p>
<p>Is there a study on the financial value of trees in terms of biodiversity improvements, clean air, removing pollutants, absorbing carbon, reducing flooding?</p>	<p>The i-tree tool provides this. Quite a few regions, cities, towns etc. have done these. For example, if you Google the London i-tree report you will see all of these stats captured in this report.</p>
<p>community groups starting tree planting projects - how to do this, how to fund it?: ideas shared: tree walks with experienced arboricultirits, growing tree</p>	<p>We will soon be launching a 'community hub' on our website with this very purpose - i.e. to provide community groups and individuals with a place where this sort of information can be found, where groups can share ideas and events etc. Hopefully we'll go live later this year.</p> <p>Much of this info does exist on the web at present, but you may need to search around.</p>

seedlings from collected seed, engaging the public	
<p>Which UK organisations have produced resources for people with access to a (non-aristocratic sized!) garden who wish to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Understand the ecosystem within their garden (soil, “weeds”, micro-climate);</li><li>b) Learn about regenerative gardening (and then apply that learning); and</li><li>c) Improve and track the ecosystem services provided by their garden?</li></ul>	<p>The best option is probably the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).</p>