



Trees People and the Built Environment 4

A conference with a difference to help you make a difference



TREES, PEOPLE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT 4

22–23 April 2020 University of Birmingham, UK

International Urban Trees Research Conference

A conference with a difference to help you make a difference

With the creeping realisation that climate change is actually a climate crisis and trees are an obvious part of a meaningful response, in early 2019 the Institute of Chartered Foresters began planning the fourth Trees, People, and the Built Environment conference with an imperative that it should constructively contribute to making a difference.

Sue James, Chartered Architect and Convenor of the Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG), and Jeremy Barrell FICFor, Managing Director, Barrell Tree Consultancy, are part of the TPBE4 Steering Group along with other experts. The Institute called in Sue because of her built environment credentials and Jeremy because of his experience of attending and speaking at international tree conferences, and this is what they came up with.

Sue James' perspective

'Trees along with highways and utilities are part of our 'critical infrastructure'. It is vital that all those whose work affects the built environment, including planners, designers, highway engineers, tree specialists and policy decision makers, recognise and understand the critical role that trees already play and will increasingly play with the recognition of the likely impacts of the climate emergency in our towns and cities.



Sue James

'The themes for TPBE4 – Green Innovation in Infrastructure, Tree Value and Natural Capital, and Governance and Planning – will explore the reasons why we all need to take trees very seriously across the social, economic, and environmental spectrum.

'We therefore urge all of you across a wide range of disciplines to attend this conference – to listen, learn, and contribute your ideas for a more sustainable urban future.'

Jeremy Barrell's perspective

'From India to Latvia, Singapore to Sydney and the rest, I go to a lot of conferences as a speaker and presenter. So, what works best and what is a waste of space? My experience is that most conferences are the climax of vast intellectual effort, often delivering great speakers and innovative ideas but, without exception, action falls off a cliff edge the moment the last talk is done. That shouldn't



Jeremy Barrell FICFor

be the end; it should be the beginning of disseminating all the bright ideas and getting those academic insights out to the people who are managing trees on the ground, so the research gets translated into actions. It never happens, and my time will have been wasted if we can't do better with TPBE4.

'I am also concerned that delegates get value for money, so something original that is worth the effort of attending. Too often, even the biggest and best conferences fail to deliver consistently high-quality presentations; quantity at the expense of quality no longer stacks up, so I won't support that approach. Every talk needs to be good and every speaker on their game, and I will be disappointed if that is not the case.'

From our starting perspectives, here is what delegates will get:

- Professor Cecil Konijnendijk, a world-leader in built environment management as Conference Chair, heading up a steering group of five top cross-disciplinary academics and industry innovators.
- Three invited keynotes with proven credentials as international innovators with excellent presentation skills, supported by up to 14 selected session speakers showcasing the best ideas from around the world, all kept on track by invited high-calibre session chairs.
- A delegate-friendly format of short talks, time for questions, and plenty of time for networking.
- Each speaker will provide a one-page summary of the practical implementation of their work, which will be compiled to build a compendium of emerging best practice that anyone, delegate or future reader, can take and put into practice straightaway and begin to make a difference.
- A 'Big Ideas' theme will run throughout the conference where you can register your idea on how to make a real difference, to be collated and brought forward to the final session where you will be allocated 2 minutes to present your big idea to the floor for debate.
- The outcomes will be distilled into a call for action to be promoted to government to inform our national and international emerging responses to the climate crisis.

Find out more at www.charteredforesters.org/event/trees-people-built-environment-4.

The Arboricultural Association is a Trees, People and the Built Environment 4 conference partner.