



PRESS RELEASE

London Tree Officers Association (LTOA) & National Association of Tree Officers (NATO)

29 October 2018:

Tree officer groups join forces in exciting collaboration

The National Association of Tree Officers (NATO) and the London Tree Officers Association (LTOA) are pleased to announce that the two organisations are joining forces. The difficulties facing the public sector, Local Authorities and tree officers are well-documented. Under these circumstances close collaboration between like-minded groups is essential if we are to succeed. To this end, and with the intention of giving NATO a new lease of life, Director Imogen Mole approached the LTOA Executive Committee and proposed a merger. After extensive and positive discussions Barbara Milne, Al Smith, David Houghton and John Parker have been appointed Directors of NATO to sit alongside Imogen Mole.

Existing NATO members will now be offered many of the benefits enjoyed by LTOA members. Administrative control of NATO will be undertaken by the NATO Directors, supported by the LTOA Executive Officer and Executive Committee. Over the coming months the NATO Directors will continue to discuss how best to restructure and relaunch NATO to build on the work of the past and ensure national promotion, support and representation of tree officers. More news about the future of NATO will be announced later in 2018; in the meantime the LTOA and NATO would like to reassure their members that this is an exciting opportunity which can only add value to the benefits they currently enjoy.

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Barbara Milne, Chair of the LTOA, said “This an exciting opportunity for tree officers to work together for a united voice for tree management across the UK. By collaborating more closely we can support tree officers and promote the valuable work we do”.

Imogen Mole, Director of NATO, said “It’s brilliant news. Our members have always recognised the importance of a strong National voice for Tree Officers, by working together we are more able to do this. Our new relationship promises a positive and constructive future and I hope you’ll continue to support us”.

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For more information please contact Becky Porter, Executive Officer on 07771 976238 or email executive.officer@ltoa.org.uk

---NOTES FOR EDITORS---

The LTOA provides an information network for the exchange of views, experiences and ideas on trees and the management of London’s Urban Forest. The Association dates back to 1982 and aims to enhance the management of the capital’s trees and woodlands. It involves local authority Tree Officers in all 33 London Boroughs, an associate membership of a wide range of tree professionals and those who manage and care for trees. In addition, the LTOA communicates with tree officer groups across the UK through a forum on a regular basis. The LTOA is funded by London Boroughs and associate member subscriptions and is hosted by the London Borough of Camden. For more information, documents, advice and guidelines on tree care take a look at the LTOA website at www.ltoa.org.uk.

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The National Association of Tree Officers (NATO) is a UK based, independent organisation that represents and distributes the views and concerns of Tree Officers nationwide. It aims to promote and enhance the good management and care of the UK treescape through the Local Authority arboricultural function. NATO currently has 31 member authorities with 61 individual contacts and is funded by corporate membership and business supporters.

The LTOA have produced the following best practice guidance:

Massaria http://www.ltoa.org.uk/resources/massaria-disease-of-plane-mdp	Canker Stain of Plane https://ltoa.org.uk/resources/pest-diseases/canker-stain-of-plane	Risk Limitation Strategy for tree root claims http://www.ltoa.org.uk/resources/risk-limitation-strategy
Surface material for planting https://ltoa.org.uk/resources/surface-materials-around-trees	Dog damage to trees http://www.ltoa.org.uk/resources/dog-damage-to-trees	Sustainable water management http://www.ltoa.org.uk/resources/sustainable-water-management

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