

## **Orchards and Groves Conference 8-10 September 2008: Conference Resolution**

During the 2008 Orchards and Groves Conference held at Sheffield Hallam University, the delegates agreed to pass the following resolution:

*“The Conference recognised the unique and irreplaceable value of orchards and veteran fruit trees (in gardens, parks and other urban areas) as part of the British landscape environmentally and culturally. It also recognised that these assets are under threat of loss from neglect, inappropriate management and development and that urgent action is need to prevent this loss.*

*The conference specifically asks the UK Government and it's agencies to review its current support mechanism for orchards. To this end it should put in place a focused, simple approach which is fit for purpose and which will encourage landowners to protect and conserve these unique assets.*

*The conference also recommended a range of positive action to help raise awareness and protect our orchards including:*

*Development of local products.*

*Actions to raise awareness of the importance of individual old fruit trees and of smaller farm-based or home-based orchards.*

*That protection/conservation extend to veteran fruit trees outside orchards, in parks, gardens, urban areas etc.*

*Mechanisms for dealing with wasted fruit.*

*Mechanism for exchanging best practice and helping landowners and locals.*

*That all Local BAPs include an Orchard BAP.*

*The development of an Orchard Action Plan (OAP).”*

Dr Peter Glaves / Dr Ian Rotherham

September 10<sup>th</sup> 2008