

11/24E SAFEGUARDING TREES

To	Colwich Parish Clerk	From	Cllr A Bloor
Cttee	Environment	Date	14 th March 2024

Title (to be included on the agenda)

To consider and agree a strategy to ensure the safeguarding of significant trees (not listed TPO) on public land in the Parish.

Issue

There has recently been an incident in Little Haywood (referred to at the last Full Council Meeting in Cllr McKeowan's report) whereby 2 ash trees were felled & one severely 'truncated' on Borough Council land in Ash Tree Close. These trees were 50 years old and appeared perfectly sound although some limited lopping was possibly required. As yet no feasible explanation has been given for the action taken. Whilst there was no TPO on these trees, they did form a significant feature in Ash Tree Close and were of importance in maintaining our green infrastructure. Consultation by the Borough Council would have been helpful before any move was taken to fell these trees.

Recommendation(s)

In an attempt to ensure that our Green Infrastructure Policy is upheld I would suggest that we investigate the possibility of having an agreement with the Borough Council that the Parish Council is consulted/informed of any plans to remove significant unlisted trees on public land in our villages. Furthermore, an undertaking should be given to replace felled trees wherever practicable. It is also possible that there are many trees in the villages that do not have TPOs on them and I would suggest that it may be a role for the Parish Council/SinCH green corridors initiative to note and take action to safeguard such trees by applying for a TPO listing.

Background

As above.

It is worthy of note that when the St Mary's estate was built a policy of tree planting was undertaken by the developers to ensure its 'green' character. Some of the trees planted then still remain and are of a significant age & height. They are now at the stage when consideration needs to be given to preserve them. There are also a few very old trees left from pre-estate days (of note are 3 very old oak trees at the junction of St Mary's Rd/Rimbach Drive). I assume that these have TPOs on them but they need to be protected.

Supporting Documents

None.

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