

1. **APPLICATIONS FOR WORK ON TREES**

TPO/20/1453 – 7 Ocean View – to fell an ash and remove a stem from a sycamore. The Tree Officer has visited and agrees to the felling on safety reasons. However, since we never seem to get any replanting conditions in the grants of permission, could you please **Take a neutral stance but request that a replanting condition is imposed.**

TPO/20/1162 – 14 Sanctuary Close – Viking Ward. Work on 9 trees to cut all vegetation back 2 metres from the fence. The trees back onto Grange Way in the NERC 2006 Priority Habitat area as well as being TPOd. LPAs have a duty to protect NERC habitats. From the plan it appears that the trees to be worked on include not only those backing on to number 14 but also 16 although this is not mentioned and are actually in Grange Way - not in the back garden of the resident's home. Some of these trees are listed on the KCC tree map; Bird Cherry, Turkey Oak and Elder are certainly owned by KCC in this stretch. The application does not include the reason for the requested work, *which is a requirement* - but the photographs show that it must be for reasons of shading in the garden; this is not actually a planning reason for work but is accepted in practice. It is good practice according to British Standards document "BS 3998:2010 - Tree work. Recommendations" to include all tree measurements in applications - otherwise a percentage is meaningless as Councillor Bailey has pointed out in previous meetings. The Tree Officer has visited and has made a much more nuanced recommendation, that involves cutting back ivy and varying levels of reduction on different trees. So in this respect the work, as it is listed in the application should be refused and the Tree Officer recommendations granted. **Please recommend refusal of the work as it stands in the application** and request that the works are only carried out as per the Tree Officer recommendations which are very different to the application and, as it is a NERC habitat, we should request that the Tree Officer is present during the work.

TPO/20/1529 – Upton Grange Tree Officer has visited and work is appropriate – no comment required

TPO/TH/20/1464 - 39A Grange Road Work to 15 trees and felling 1. The Tree Officer has visited and made recommendations about the suitability of the work for 15 trees on land bordering a public footpath and a neighbouring property. Kevin has agreed to the removal one sycamore and has suggested that the resident replants. This is especially important because the resident is also removing 2 other trees from the property that are not TPOd. **Please take a Neutral stance *but request that a replanting condition* is imposed** for the removed tree number T48 on a 2 for 1 basis to make up for lost canopy since 2 other non-protected trees are also being removed.

TH/TPO/9(1991)T41 - 15 The Pines - to fell a Silver Birch. The Tree Officer has visited and stated there is no justification for the work. **Please support the Tree Officer and recommend refusal as the work is totally unnecessary.**

TH/TPO/20/1518/DF – St Peters Church – Pollard 19 limes 25%. The Tree Officer has approved the work in advance. I personally dislike pollards – but it can actually extend the life of the trees, but once started it must be maintained as an ongoing process. It is good practice to pole pollard every 2 or 3 years. This does not mean removing every last shoot down to the knuckle, however, but selectively taking out branches in a rotation, allowing the tree to continue growing and recovering whilst being harvested. These trees however, are maiden trees and have not had any work. Talking about pollarding in the application when Kevin has approved a 25% crown thin, does not fill me with confidence that TDC operatives know how to do this work. Kevin has said that the work must be done sensitively. These are mature trees that are an amenity to the area. **Please support the Tree Officer and take a neutral stance, (although it is over the 20% BTC policy threshold), *but request that suitably qualified tree surgeons conduct the work rather than TDC operatives*, as a 25% thin and reduction is not the drastic pollard that will require constant maintenance and end up with ugly pollard knuckles like those along the rest of the footpath.**

TPO/20/1631/RB - 35 Selwyn Drive – Work on 1 sycamores Tree Officer has not yet visited – but the work application from Joseph Weitzel appears appropriate – no comment required.

TPO/20/1633/ZD - 29 The Paddocks – Work on 6 sycamores Tree Officer has not yet visited – but the work application from Joseph Weitzel appears appropriate – no comment required.

2. OTHER WORK

2.1. I have finished the **4th Draft Tree Strategy** and sent it to Danielle for final edit and the addition of the Executive Summary. I have added a suggested budget for the activities listed as a starting point for further discussion as part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

3. PLANTING SEASON HAS BEGUN!

3.1. In **Mocketts Wood** on 7th November we planted 2 Hornbeam with the Friends. All socially distanced and mask wearing. It is quite difficult to see the trees against the existing trees, but they are there!



3.2. We planted three Hornbeam at **St Peters Churchyard** on 11th November as a Remembrance Planting. The funding for this is through a grant application from the Church Environmental Committee. BSTP has paid for the planting until the funding comes through and then will be repaid by the Church Committee. We have also applied for hedging for this space through the Woodland Trust Tree Charter programme and this will arrive in March and will be free of charge. Two trees were delivered damaged – so we have two replacements we can plant whenever I can arrange more plantings.



3.3. The **Westover Gardens** planting in conjunction with ITTWI began on Friday 13th November, continued on 18th November and (at the time of writing) will continue on 29th November. None have been with Public participation because of COVID19.



*L to R: Me, Kevin Pressland - Tree Officer,
Jade Hanks - new Tree Champion,
Peter Hasted – ITTWI*

Some councillors have received complaints about trees being sited on the green, but these are the minority and there is overwhelming support for the project, 221 likes on my personal story on FB Broadstairs! Page and 9 shares.

3.4. Three memorial plantings went ahead on the same day, 24th November



1 Vincent Close - Lime



Memorial Recreation Ground - Hawthorn



Holmes Park – Italian Alder

3.5. Two additional plantings went ahead on 24th November in Kitty's Green to replace the fallen Rowan and in the Bowling Green at the Memorial Recreation Ground to replace the dead hawthorn.



Bowling Green - Hawthorn



Kitty's Green - Rowan

4. RESIDENT OUTREACH

4.1. Mr Gilhespy I was contacted by Abi on 29/10/20 on behalf of Mr Gilhespy from 53 Pierremont Avenue about his TPOd trees. It has taken since then for TDC to send me details of his TPO (30/11/20). He apparently has two TPOd elm trees in his garden – but it is unclear from the TDC documentation whether they were felled. I have sent Mr Gilhespy some details of how to identify Elm Trees and will set up a meeting with Kevin, so we can update the status of these trees and Kevin can give Mr Gilhespy some advice on their care, TPOd or otherwise.

4.2. Lots of residents contacted me about the **Wimpey Estate trees** – aka, Land at Vincent Close and Northwood Park, where TDC (and possibly others) have been felling trees. The report from Treeveys in January marked 4 trees for removal to ground level and some additional work on a number of other trees. Kevin and I disagreed with the recommendation to fell one of the trees and asked Emma Penny for a stay of execution while Kevin sought a second opinion. We were too late and have lost yet another large Horse Chestnut for disputed reasons. I took a walk around the area to review the work that TDC had carried out and was very concerned at the quality of the work as was Kevin. There was also a lot of work on trees that were not listed for work and one tree was removed at the request

of the resident at 9 Birch Close. **Cllr Garner and I will try to track down the decision making for this** as we are not sure that sufficient process was followed here and the tree was healthy. Next door to this tree another has suffered a dreadful topping, but the work was not carried out by TDC! I do not know who did this, but the resident nearest to the tree also had work done on the tree in their front garden, so you might draw your own conclusions from this. **How should the council respond to this?**

4.3. Mrs Galhea and Mr Temple 140 – 144 Botany Road. I was contacted by residents concerned about the annoying state of two ornamental pear trees, that drop squishy fruit, that people have slipped on. TDC have apparently refused to take the waste away in Green Bins and class it as Food Waste! There is too much to go in brown food caddies. The epicormic growth at the base of one of one tree should have been dealt with many years ago and is now a problem for pavement users. **I have been speaking to Cllr Bayford** about these trees and taking advice from other Tree Wardens on best solution for residents. See pics overleaf.



4.4. New Tree Wardens. There is much too much work for one voluntary person, so I have been busy recruiting new people to help me out. Will Jarman and Paul Dickenson who live near me on the Chessboard, will manage a project with Kevin to provide recommendations of how to do succession planting and improve bio-diversity in Holmes Park.

Following a post on Facebook I have two much younger people who are keen to help out with all aspects of the work, Jade Hanks and Tom Plaistow. Jade joined me at Westover on Sunday 29th for the planting.

All these people are in addition to the existing Tree Champions, so I hope to create an active group of people who I can delegate projects to. Will, Jade, and Tom will be attending an online Tree Warden training session week commencing 30/11/20 that David Carey will be running for me.

Paul Dickenson (existing Tree Champion and Will Jarman) are putting together with Kevin Pressland a report on Holmes Park that includes mapping of each of the existing trees, a plan to introduce snowdrop and bluebell bulbs, wildflower borders and more trees (subject to funding). They will prepare a project proposal under my guidance for consideration by BSTP and TDC.

5. Training and CPD

5.1. I attended **The Planning Portal Conference**, which discussed the upcoming changes to planning legislation and the principle of Environmental Net Gain and what that might mean in practice for developers and LPAs. I have updated the latest strategy in reference to this.

5.2. I arranged for **Miyawaki Method (Super Tiny Forest)** training from my contacts at EarthWatch for all interested Kent Tree & Pond Tree Wardens.