

# Bawden Tree Report – April 2022

## 1. Overview

Bawden Tree Care have undertaken a survey of all significant trees on Parish Council land.

The key findings are:

- Ash die-back is significant. 16 ash trees have been recommended to be removed: G01 (8 stems), T37, T38, T41, T48, T50, T51, T52, T53
- Three other trees have been recommended to be removed: T39 Lombardy Poplar, T40 Lombardy Poplar, T46 Common Hornbeam
- Four other trees have signs of decay. Further detailed inspection is needed for:
  - 1 x Leyland Cypress
  - 2 x Lombardy Poplar
  - 1 x Horse Chestnut
- Works have been recommended on another 20 trees (e.g. severing ivy, removing dead wood, lifting crowns).
- The recommended schedule of works are for addressing:
  - Critical – 8 trees to be addressed now (within 1 month)
  - Urgent – 16 trees to be addressed within 3 months
  - Imminent – 12 trees to be addressed within 6 months
  - Ongoing – 8 trees requiring annual maintenance

## 2. Impact

The recommendations will have significant impact in terms of:

- Costs
- The Tynning tree-line

## 3. Liability

These recommendations are for trees which can cause harm to the public where branches or trees fall.

The PC has the legal responsibility for the maintenance of trees on its land and is liable should injuries occur through negligence.

Therefore we need to ensure that the issues raised in the report are properly addressed.

## 4. Next Steps

The PC land is fully within the Freshford Conservation Area.

Therefore B&NES Trees Officer and Conservation Officer need to be liaised with to obtain her advice and guidance.

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It would seem sensible to obtain an independent view on the management of the Ash trees. There are different views on how ash trees with ash die-back are managed. As the Woodland Trust are now managing the woods across the meadows, it would seem sensible to obtain their view on the Ash trees in question.

This is in no way denigrating the Bawden report, as they have correctly identified issues that need to be addressed.

Due to the amount of work identified, we need to obtain three quotes for the maintenance schedule as defined in the Bawden report. We should consider separating the Critical activities to enable them to be addressed rapidly.

Quotes are being obtained from:

- Bawden Tree Care
- Alan Duck
- TBD

In contradiction to moving rapidly for the Critical elements, the PC also needs to consider:

- a) Work being undertaken in bird nesting season
- b) Impact on bats – is a bat survey needed?

The PC also will need to consider how to manage the areas where trees are felled. A simple response is to replace like with like. The PC needs to ensure that the right decision is made.

## 5. Bawden Report

Please refer to the Bawden Tree Report itself for the detail.

A summary is being produced to enable the full extent of the works to be understood and managed.