

## **Tree Warden Report for PC on 11 March 2024**

For circulation to PC for information and decisions.

**1 Wylam Playing Fields Association** – the Cricket Club wish to prune back some low overhanging branches from trees growing just beyond the boundary fence. The trees are not on WPC land. A meeting was arranged last Friday. - I was at work but Colin kindly agreed to go along and can provide details if necessary.

The Club / WPFA do not need any formal permissions to carry out the work up to the boundary. Under Common Law you can prune vegetation overhanging from a neighbouring property as long as the trees are not protected by a Tree Preservation Order or in a Conservation Area, and these are not.

The Cricket Club will be carrying out the work in the next week or so.

**2 Renovation and thinning of the trees and shrubs at Jackson Road** - Tyne Valley Woodlands have commenced work starting on the wooded areas fronting on to Jackson Road / Hedley Road. The area will look a lot more open – though similar to an area already thinned. There are a lot of tall spindly dead and dying trees to be removed – many are self-seeded birch. The main large and healthy trees will be retained. The very large cherry and Portugal laurels are being coppiced – the area below these shrubs is very dark and no grass or other vegetation can grow. In my experience, these shrubs will put on new growth very quickly and can be managed in future at a more suitable height and spread. The brambles, rose and other ruderal vegetation will certainly regrow as well and will need a management programme.

I spoke to a resident on site and explained the reasons for the work. He suggested planting some new trees and I would certainly like to develop this idea particularly if residents would like to be involved. I already have a number of young oak, chestnut and hornbeam trees which can be grown on for planting here. The Great Northumberland Forest team may also be keen to help. (They planted the young trees at the NE corner of the Dene Estate) I will contact them and report back on opportunities.

With the renovation work now underway, I would suggest contacting Northumberland Grounds Maintenance team to alert them to the changes and confirm which areas need to be mown. This may also be something for the grass strategy.

### **3 Tyne View**

To date, Tyne Valley Woodlands have not been back to remove the cut poles and clear the crown of the fallen willow below Tyne View. I have mentioned this to them.

**4 Reminder re quote from NWL for sewer information** including the nature reserve and allotments. (£34.50 Inc. VAT).

**Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)** - The Parish Council received notification that four Tree Preservation Orders were revoked by Northumberland County Council. I don't think this has been widely publicised. I was concerned about the loss of protection for the prominent line of veteran oaks on the field boundary on the west side of Holeyn Hall Road. If WPC and local residents share this concern the only recourse would be to ask for a new order to be surveyed and designated. I also have concerns about the accuracy of the very extensive Tree Preservation Orders created in the 1960s which need to be re-surveyed and updated.

Liz Bray  
Wylam Volunteer Tree Warden