

Tree Report to AGM 2024

1. RECENT SURVEY

- a. A survey of the trees on the estate now takes place every 2 years instead of every 4 years. The most recent took place last December (2023).
- b. Overall, the Survey was very complimentary about the state of the existing trees and of the choice of the additional trees planted over the past 2 years.
- c. Following on from the report four trees have recently been removed, and one is to be done soon (the tree in the water near the road bridge behind WSC). Four dead trees were also cleared around the site in the interest of safety.
- d. An examination of The Conservation Area was undertaken. There is no requirement to fell any trees in this area at the present time.
- e. It might be worth mentioning, for the benefit on new residents, that the Conservation Area is not a playground and is not suitable for children. There are a lot of leaning trees in this area and it can be quite swampy. Waverley Borough Council (WBC) insist that we keep the Conservation as is.
- f. A new Conservation Area map for this area has recently been issued by WBC and the map now includes the ground and trees to the rear of the garages opposite 43 BBW and all land behind 18 & 20 BBW right across to the Canal Boundary.

2. NEW TREES ON THE LANDINGS

Every time we remove a tree on The Landings we have to replace it from a list supplied by WBC. WBC only accept trees that are over 10' tall as replacements – and these can cost anything from £400-£600 each. The Board therefore agreed to buy quite a lot of young/smaller trees at a cost of £40 -£150 each. As these trees grow to above 10' they can be considered by WBC as suitable replacements for felled trees. For info, over the past 7 years thirty-five trees (about 3-6' high) have been planted. Some for enhancement of the Estate and some to act as replacements of trees that have died or been felled – or will die in the future. This policy has already saved The Landings several thousand pounds – and will continue to do so.

3. SAFETY

Safety is paramount and as a result The Landings need to spend around £8-10K per annum to maintain our trees and to remove dangerous trees as necessary. There can, of course, be no guarantee that a tree will not come down in severe windy weather. However, we do take all reasonable precautions - such as having regular independent surveys by professional tree surgeons and the carrying out of an 'Independent tree survey' every 2 years. The Survey undertaken last December, and the one undertaken 2 years ago, was carried out by the head of trees for Chelsea and Westminster Council – and a very good job he did too.

I hold a copy of the Report and Plans – should anyone wish to see it.

Most of the work in the 2023 Report - that required action over the next 2 years -has already been completed. However, this is nature – and we are constantly keeping an eye out for trees that need attention – or to be felled where considered dangerous. On this point, if anyone has any concerns about any tree on the Estate then please let me know straight away. I live at 3 BBW. Thank you.

Mike Slocombe