

## **Tree Warden Report for PC on 08 January 2024**

For circulation to PC for information and decisions.

### **December**

I sent some comments on the PC open space survey, being carried out on behalf of NCC. Just to confirm: I did a very cursory survey in 2022 recording most of the green spaces in Wylam accessible to the public. The purpose was to identify potential sites to plant trees, as requested by the Great North Forest project. This did result in the planting of trees at the NE corner of the Dene Estate. I still have my rough notes and with a bit more work could compile a schedule.

There would need to be public consultation on how our community views its open spaces and what they think is needed.

### **December 2023 – Storm damage**

Fallen ash at Engine Dene – I have been in touch with Northumberland Council's Trees & Woodlands Officer – this magnificent tree was protected by a Tree Preservation Order and Michael Armer is considering some replacement oaks.

I also notified him about another damaged limb on the large oak at Jackson Road / The Dene. NCC did work on this tree earlier in 2023.

Renovation and thinning of the trees and shrubs at Jackson Road -The Dene green space has been discussed with Tyne Valley Woodlands and a cost estimate is awaited.

Given the stormy weather I have looked at most of the vulnerable trees around the village. Things to look out for are fungal decay bodies, breakouts of limbs and soil movement. As we all know, trees are living organisms and most are well adapted to the sort of weather that is thrown at them, but sometimes there is no warning that they might fail.

### **28 December 2023**

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. May need to check what was included in their quotation.

### **1 November 2023**

Reminder re quote from NWL for sewer information at Charlie's Corner and the area between pit heap and Points Bridge - including the nature reserve and allotments.

*Please be advised that the production of infrastructure plans is a chargeable service and for this site will cost £34.50 (Inc. VAT).*

**For PC consideration and approval if acceptable.**

Reminder: PC decision required (February PC) whether to proceed with proposed hedge planting at Charlie's Corner.

### **February 2023**

Comments were submitted on the proposed felling of a sycamore at Ashburn, Church Road, Wylam. I followed this up having heard nothing and found that the NCC planners agreed with our advice and that of the Woodlands officer that there was inadequate justification. The application was refused on 29 March 2023. Good news, though I am sure we have not heard the last of this.

### **Stop Press! October 2023**

The Parish Council has received notification that back in October and November four Tree Preservation Orders were revoked by Northumberland County Council. As far as I can see, there seems to be no statutory consultation procedure for this action. If we have concerns about the removal of protection from trees it looks as though the only recourse might be to ask for a new order to be surveyed and designated. Judging from the recent letters and previous experience, I think it is unlikely that NCC would agree to do this. Myself and the parish clerk may have a little more information about this matter by the time of the meeting.

Liz Bray  
Wylam Volunteer Tree Warden