

Tree Warden Report for PC on 8 April 2024

1 Wylam Playing Fields Association – the Cricket Club have pruned back a few limbs on the very tall beech trees at the SW corner of the playing field. (No work done to trees on WPC land.)

2 Renovation and thinning of the trees and shrubs at Jackson Road - Tyne Valley Woodlands have completed the work. The area looks a lot more open and matches a small area previously thinned. The area now has the appearance of an open glade rather than dense shrubbery with trees.

The very large evergreen cherry and Portugal laurels have been coppiced – these are expected to regrow from the base and can be managed in future at a more suitable height and spread. A number of dead, decaying and dying trees were identified as the work progressed and have been removed, as well as some that were leaning, precarious or overcrowded. The undergrowth has been strimmed but some holly, yew, rose and other emerging shrubs have been retained. The bramble, rose and other ruderal vegetation will certainly regrow as well and will need a management programme

Large and healthy trees have been retained. One has a large wound that has healed but will be monitored for signs of deterioration. A mature oak on The Dene frontage has had two breakouts from the upper crown in recent storms. The remaining crown is vulnerable and requires assessment and some remedial work. TVW did not include this tree in the management scheme and will need to provide a separate estimate.

A resident suggested planting some new trees and I recommend progressing this idea with residents over the summer. 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 have suggested contacting Northumberland Grounds Maintenance team to alert them to the changes and confirm which areas need to be mown. Maintenance of the shrubbery edges has been done annually each summer, by a private contractor.

Options for future management should be considered, with the possibility of inviting the local community to give their views. Here are a few for starters.

- (a) Allow the cleared areas to re-vegetate naturally and continue to maintain as before.
- (b) Strim back emerging bramble, briar and other vegetation to encourage understory shrubs (holly, yew, pyracantha, snowberry, forsythia, hawthorn etc) to develop alongside the cherry and Portugal laurels but maintain the shrubs at 2 metres max height.
- (c) Plant new young trees and understory shrubs to improve species and age diversity.
- (d) Plant bulbs and wildflower plugs.

3 NWL sewer information This will be relevant to any tree planting proposals and for the neighbourhood plan. Water and drainage / sewerage pipes are present below WPC land: allotments, riverside near Points Bridge, the nature reserve Orchard corner and Jackson Road.

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