



Bothenhampton & Walditch

Parish Council since 1886

Mr Andrew Hollingsworth
Dorset Council
South Walks House
South Walks Road
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1UZ

18th February 2020

Dear Mr Hollingsworth

Sycamore Avenue, the Hyde, Walditch Road, Bridport DT6 4LB

We refer to our letter to you of 18th October 2019 and to your reply via email on the 23rd October, where you said you had passed the matter to your colleague Mr Graham Cox.

The Clerk emailed you on the 9th January 2020 advising you that the Parish Council had not heard from Mr Cox neither had any progress been made to replace the trees along Sycamore Avenue. We might add that we are yet to receive a reply from you to our email of the 9th January.

We are disappointed with the lack of progress, and our parish meetings are attended every month by residents who ask why the Council have not acted.

From our perspective the Clerk was in conversation with Mr Chris Lloyd back in July 2019, however we are aware the matter has been raised by Mr Robin Stapleton prior to this. We believe the situation has been allowed to continue for too long and steps need to be taken as soon as possible to resolve it.

We sent you the plan of trees on Sycamore Avenue and we have highlighted the issue with trees numbered 9, 16, 17 and 19 (Map ref. 477926). "P on the plan indicates that the tree was not required to be pollarded". Map is again attached for information.

Trees 16, 17 and 19 were blown over in the winter of 2013-14, and 9 fell across the road in March 2016. Last weekend, tree 8 has been blown down and is now in the field.

We need to inform you that there had been no progress on replacement of trees or on ensuring the existing trees are properly looked after. In particular, six lime trees are in a very neglected state.

During our email exchange with Chris Lloyd he promised to look at the gaps in trees and issue a Tree Replacement Notice to Mr Norman. Please can you confirm whether or not this Notice has been issued.

With the current focus on environmental issues and climate change we believe it is in everyone's interest to get this work carried out as soon as possible. There is overwhelming evidence that trees are helping to remove harmful greenhouse gasses and there is no excuse for allowing Mr Norman to continue to prevaricate in this way and not replace the trees which he is responsible for.

I understand from Mr Stapleton that your colleague Mr Cox is familiar with all the history and has been aware of the situation right from the start. He was instrumental in the entire avenue being placed under a Preservation Order.

We hope that you can agree with our feelings in this matter and do all you can to resolve this contentious issue that has been outstanding for a number of years.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Basker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

A J Basker
Chairman - Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council
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Cc: Graham Coxx