

**Wickham Market Parish Council  
Full Council September 16<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**Tree works Report for WMPC open spaces**

There is a need to continue positive tree management on WMPC open spaces to ensure reflect the need for future tree safety and long-term management of these spaces where tree growth is becoming an issue.

**I recommend the following works are carried out.**

I have estimated the number of days needed and allowed for a day rate of £600 to give Councillors an approximate overall cost.

**Church Pightle Green: Conservation Area**

**(WMPC/tree warden will notify ESC under S211 Notification as in Conservation Area)**

**Tree T10 Quercus ilex (see plan)**

1. Work on this tree was not carried out last year and UKPN have failed to address the massive crown of the tree. BTS (their former contractor called me on 9<sup>th</sup> September to apologise and to say they no longer have the contract with UKPN. The issues will need to be reported again online). I will follow up.
2. Remove all sucker growth from false acacia trees west end T1 and T2, alongside footpaths.
3. Remove vigorous sucker growth on the sycamore tree, west end T3.
4. Cut back (with care) heavy ivy growth on Cathena Care building wall.
5. Chip up all arisings (including previous volunteer prunings) and place on site for green gym volunteers to use as a young tree mulch. We have ten young trees in the space which are cared for.

**Items 2 – 5 Approx Time 1.5 days**

**Likely cost £900**

**Parish Cemetery**

Following on from good work carried out last winter. Summary, fallen conifer pruned, holm oak, pruned and large beech pruned/crown lifted, line of six yew were shaped up. All trees too large for volunteers to deal with although we do carry out a lot of lower tree crown and hedge pruning.

Tree work will be discussed at the Cemetery work party on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September to ascertain what is in the ESS programme for this coming winter works and to avoid any overlap. See Cemetery report.

All arisings from cemetery work to be chipped and placed in the timber bunker close to the Bier House, for use by green gym volunteers as tree mulch.

**East section**

6. Prune down to 2/3metres the southern boundary hedge where some plantings have grown into trees. Retain selected oak and field maple as specimen trees and all mature trees.  
This work not completed last year.
7. West end near Bier House. Crown lift tree canopy by reducing large lower limbs on mature oak by up to four metres.
8. Reduce the height and shape up the holly and box trees either side of the Bier House drive.

**Items 6 – 8 Approx Time 2 days**

**Likely cost £1200**

### **Village Hall Playing field**

9. **North boundary:** Carry out some further hedge pruning, approx. 30 metres, and tidy up of the north boundary hedge, cutting back where blackthorn sucker growth and bramble are creeping out from the informal hedge. This work was identified following Cllr Jenkinson and Anne Westover joint site visit to discuss grounds maintenance schedules.
10. **West boundary:** carry out bough lifting on mature trees including the large lime trees. Take out dead birch and plum and stack up logs discretely.
11. **Southwest corner:** cut out raspberry suckers and remove to create more green space as previously discussed.
12. **South boundary:** cut back and open out the blackthorn where the tunnel is shrinking!

Chip up all arisings including one heap left from early 2023 and dispose of around the field margins.

**Items 9 – 12 Approx Time 2 days**

**Likely cost £1200**

### **Simons Cross sports field**

13. West boundary: Three large hybrid black poplars, remove lower boughs to prevent shading of neighbouring young trees. We have planted approx. 100 native species trees along this field boundary since 1998. Some are being shaded out by lower boughs. This will also allow tree growth to improve and an inspection of lower trunks for decay fungi.
14. Dead elm, reduce by approx three metres. Located in the hedge line on the east boundary (next to closed off play area) to ensure limbs do not get shed.
15. East boundary: approx 12 mature trees (oak, field maple, Norway maple, sycamore) in school grounds (trapped between their old and new fenced boundary) overhanging the public right of way (FP 27), the open space and shading the tennis courts.
16. We consider that the school bear a duty to carry out some pruning of these trees but as they overhang land leased to WMPC (from SCC) we could initiate work once/if Avocet Academy agree to subsidise.
17. If WMPC are supportive S Exton and A Westover will approach the school.

**Items 13 – 14 Approx Time 1 days**

**Likely cost £600**

**Item 15 Approx 1.5 days**

**Likely cost £900 (share with Avocet Academy)**

Chip up all arisings including and leave two handy heaps for green gym tree planters to use as a mulch.

### **To conclude:**

I recommend that WMPC approve this proposed work schedule and the approximate costs amounting to:

**Time max 8 days**

**Cost approx. maximum £4800**

If authorised I can seek detailed estimates for works for the four areas from Tree Surgeons known to carry out work to a high standard on projects in the Parish and elsewhere in Suffolk.

*I hope that WMPC will recognise and continue to support and insure the many hours of volunteer work which takes place in enhancing our green spaces through clean ups, tree planting, pruning works, survey work, bulbs and flower planting and much more! If they are not valued and recognised volunteers will disappear!*

**A Westover**      **Parish Tree Warden 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024**