

From: **Jenni Agricola** <jenni.agricola@googlemail.com>

Date: Tue, 22 Oct 2024 at 23:46

Subject: Fwd: Holly Tree on the corner of Cranleigh Gardens and Nodes Road that is no more

To: <jn@northwoodparishcouncil.org>

Cc: <clerk@northwoodparishcouncil.org>

Dear Councillor Nicholson

I sent the enclosed email to you on 15th October, following the demise of the holly tree on the corner of Cranleigh Gardens and Nodes Road, which for some reason google saw fit to send into the ether. I had wondered why you hadn't responded as usually you are very prompt in replying. It was only when I printed it out today to take to any Councillor at the Warm Space to raise awareness of the issue, that I realised you had probably not received it. I apologise for the mistake, I struggle with my computer emails ever since it automatically updated one day and Outlook never worked again.

Anyway I met up with Cllrs Richard and Peter earlier today at the Warm Space and they told me to resend the email to the correct address, and also to copy in Katie, and that possibly the issue could be discussed at the next parish meeting in November.

In view of the fact that the IWC declared a Climate Emergency a few years ago, we should be doing everything we can to preserve our trees, and indeed, plant lots more. If there is nothing to stop trees being felled in public places, policy needs to change and a new process put in place with proper oversight. I for one do not believe that the holly tree in question, if it was diseased, was diseased enough to be felled, and without anybody in Northwood's knowledge.

I look forward to hearing the outcome.

Kind regards

Jenni Agricola

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jenni Agricola** <jenni.agricola@googlemail.com>

Date: Tue, 15 Oct 2024 at 18:46

Subject: Holly Tree on the corner of Cranleigh Gardens and Nodes Road that is no more

To: John Nicholson <cldr.john.nicholson@btconnect.com>

Dear Cllr Nicholson

Yesterday the holly tree on the corner of Cranleigh Gardens and Nodes Road was chopped down and is no more.

My husband told me that two men with a van told him that the tree was diseased and had to go.

Were these men from the Council? Had the parish council been consulted? I didn't see it mentioned in the council reports in the Northwood News at any time prior.

Who determined that the tree was diseased? It had green berries on it which would have been in full bloom for the Christmas season. It was a wonderful tree and I for one am very sorry to see it gone.

Was a felling licence obtained for this tree? I've never seen a public notice in any case for felling licences; are they published in the County Press like planning applications? Or how do the public get to hear about trees that are about to be felled beforehand? Especially if no felling licence is required.

In this day and age, no trees should be felled without being replaced, somewhere, on a ratio of 3:1 (at least).

Are there any plans for extra trees to be planted somewhere in the vicinity to replace its benefits (long term)?

Apart from the CO² that the tree absorbed, it was beautiful against a blue sky and uplifting to the soul. And I am not the only person around here that 'talked' to the tree.

The willow tree in East Cowes was designated as diseased and supposedly needed to be chopped down. After a local campaign (and a lot of money spent), the tree is still there. I'm not saying that the same could have been done with the holly tree, but in this day and age, trees should not be felled. They should be allowed to live out their lives, just as old people are.

And copying directly from The Woodland Trust website:

Alternatives to felling

Felling any tree will have implications for people and wildlife and should be a last resort. But we appreciate it's sometimes necessary where a tree poses a risk to safety because of its location or condition, or is shown to be damaging property. But even where trees are causing a real problem, it's worth exploring other options. For example, pollarding and pruning can remove dangerous hanging branches or reduce the weight or impact of a tree without killing it.

Talk to a tree adviser or consultant about how to best manage a problem tree, and [find a quality assured tree surgeon](#) if you proceed with any major works. They will make sure the problem is sufficiently resolved while saving as much of the tree as possible, and they have liability insurance should anything go wrong too.

After you have felled a tree

To compensate for the lost tree, we recommend planting at a ratio of at least 3:1, or as agreed in the felling licence conditions - although it will take years to match the benefits of the felled tree.

I'm certainly no tree expert, but I do not believe the tree posed "a risk to safety because of its location or condition" and as far as I could see, was not damaging property, so therefore should not have been felled. Other options should have been looked at, as recommended by The Woodland Trust.

I look forward to your response and thank you for your time.

Kind regards

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