



Tilia species (Lime Trees), The Avenue – Urgent work notice

The lime tree avenue that forms a stunning backdrop for Avenue and Cliff Field supports a wonderfully diverse ecosystem. The leaves are a source of food for the caterpillars of many moth species. The soft, silky leaves are also attractive to aphids, providing a food source for their predators, including hoverflies, ladybirds and many bird species. Bees drink the aphid honeydew deposited on their leaves and the flowers provide nectar and pollen for insects, particularly bees. The mature lime pollards provide dead wood for wood-boring beetles, and nesting holes for birds.

Lime trees are quick growers and whilst these pollarded trees are a valuable refuge for wildlife, they need regular attention to keep them safe, for everyone.

The Arboricultural Association describes pollarding as:

“The initial removal of the top of a young tree at a prescribed height to encourage multi stem branching from that point, traditionally for fodder, firewood or poles . Once started, it should be repeated on a cyclical basis always retaining the initial pollard point, or bolting as it becomes known.”

Historically, these trees have been managed by the National Trust, the management opportunity now sits with Lympstone Parish Council. In February 2022, you may recall one pollard collapsed (see below), so there is a safety and welfare concern for the public. The PC, working on behalf of the community have decided to encourage biodiversity and mitigate habitat loss by prioritising the pollards that need the most urgent attention. During the summer, this group of deciduous trees offer much needed shade although, last year it was especially dark at night, so this work will also improve nocturnal visibility.



This necessary health and safety work will take place towards the end of this month (probably 20th March) and may require a footpath diversion sign posted through Avenue Field so please ensure you are wearing suitable footwear that day.

Thank you in advance for your understanding,

Once the work is completed, the PC will then decide which of the other pollards require work and develop some timescales for ongoing care.

Any questions please contact me, Cllr Andy Lewis at andylewislympstonepc@gmail.com

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