



ARBORICULTURAL CONSULTANCY

EAST DEAN & FRISTON PARISH**Date: 14-03-20**

My opinions on the matters raised by Peter Williamson are addressed below.

Mature Ash trees for TPO designation

These are located on a couple of the twitters on the Downlands Estate. They seem free of dieback and are, I think, veteran/ancient.

The trees are of an exceptional age, I would categorize them as veteran trees, they would warrant TPO designation as long as they remain healthy.

Managing tree root invasion of drains

On the back of recent works on a TPO'd Willow on the Downlands Estate in East Dean with a history of invading the nearby foul water drain, I've so far failed to discover what evidence-based best practice is to prevent tree roots invading drains: are particular works on a tree effective or works on the drains itself? Does it depend on the tree, so on a case by case basis? I've approached Forest Research, Arboricultural Association & Ben Rainbow at WDC, all without success.

In this case the drainage system has been located too close to the tree, the owners of the drain should be responsible for its structural integrity and functionality.

Elm cultivars on Gilberts Drive

These were obtained by a Parish Councillor from the Conservation Foundation and planted by him 10/15 years ago to replace some DED-infected Elms. A local resident and former tree warden/parish councillor raised concerns about them, as it appears they've had no maintenance since. Photos are attached, in which you'll see damage caused by the protectors that, as far as I can see,

aren't proper tree protectors anyway, are they ? What maintenance is now required in their best interests ?

We removed the protectors, I raised the issue about strimming too close to the trees and the damage that it was causing; Peter followed this up with the mowing contractors. The trees are established and should not require any further maintenance.

Planting Downsvie Lane verge

Photos attached with two more to follow. The Parish Council proposes to plant tree or hedgerow species from the Woodland Trust up against the existing hedgerow beyond a 1.5 metre strip from the roadside that will be mowed annually and I need to provide advice:

Is it worth planting anything from the point of view of location and soil type ?

If, so what species ? How and when should these be planted ? By whom: could trained volunteers from the community do it or would an appropriate contractor be more advisable ?

What maintenance over what time would then be required to allow them to establish themselves ? Again, could village volunteers do this ?

As discussed; it would not be worth the time and money for new planting in this area, instead the existing mature hedge should be left to grow.

"Diversity Strip" & "Wild Flower Strip" on East Dean playground adjoining the new build houses

This was first created to commemorate a royal family anniversary some years ago but failed as a contractor mowed the strip at the wrong time or something. It's situated alongside the wall that forms the southern boundary the other side of the cricket pitch.

I agreed with Cllr d'Urso's plan to plant a 35 metre x 1 metre wide strip of wild flowers around 600mm in from the fence. New planting of traditional hedging (Hawthorn, Blackthorn & Field Maple) to fill in a gap in the existing hedge was also agreed on.

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