

Sorbus Trees on Ditton Lane bank

Barcham Trees have stated that all existing trees are stressed and that is quite easy to see why. Trees are numbered 1-10 from crossroads and most show signs of decay and mechanical damage, from grass cutting or strimming, and two others have Elderberry growth at base.



1: large Elderberry root at base, causing a problem



3: Quite a lot of damage at base



2: Some trunk damage, one of the better ones



4: much damage at base



5: quite a bit of damage on trunk



8: serious problem at base



6: leaning towards the road. Elderberry has grown through its roots. The Elderberry should be poisoned, but that just might make the Sorbus unsafe?



9: Dying at the crown and damaged at base



7: Ivy on trunk, second of the better ones, but not inspected beneath ivy



10: many suckers at base, but one of the better trees

The previous young trees were planted too deep because the soil had to cover the rootball on this slope. To plant correctly required a level area of at least 2ft in circumference. But consider also that those newly planted trees did not receive anything like a sufficient amount of water to survive.

To replant yet more young trees here, does not seem practical or make sense and may end with more failures, as the watering of them on this bank is without doubt a very hazardous task. They will require watering over a long period to survive, i.e. 1-2 gallons per tree per week for a couple of months (depending on temperature and wind), or perhaps throughout a dry summer.

Taking all this into account and the state of the established trees, I recommend as Tree Warden, that the PC no longer consider replacing any trees on this bank.

At the recent meeting on this matter between Cllr Parr (Conservation Officer), attended by the clerk, we propose that the Green by the traffic lights as the site for planting the new trees. The cost will be much reduced and the watering much easier giving the trees a better chance of bedding in.



White poles indicates suggested position of new trees

NB: The Hazels on the same green are desperately in need of coppicing (thinning) back to ground level to recreate the original concept of three shrubs, not a giant bush!



They are blocking out light to an upstairs window in the adjacent house.

Alan Alderson, Tree Warden, Fen Ditton