

SPECIAL TREE SUPPLEMENT

Woodman spare that tree....

Various residents have been worried about information or rumours about threats to the trees in the village. The EVTRA Committee has discussed this, sought information and taken action. The current situation can be summarised as follows:



(1) The trees are clearly one of the attractions which visitors note when they arrive, and are also a delightful amenity to many residents, as well as improving the environment and air. **This situation will basically continue.**

(2) Most of the trees in the public areas are subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). As we understand it the TPOs also apply to some trees on private property.

If you wish to check your situation, contact the Tree Officer of Camden Councillor, who has a map. If in doubt, you should check before taking action about a tree, because if you cut one down or damage it, you can face a £1000 fine.



(3) Day to day supervision of the public trees and management matters are handled by PfP, currently through Mike Jackson.

(4) **But the Tree Officer makes the final decision about what happens to a tree, and the general principle is, as you might expect, tree preservation.**



(5) We understand that at some point PfP plan to change the nature of management of the landscaping. We are monitoring this very carefully, as we do not wish the trees (or landscape) to be “looked after by “skilled” workers of the same calibre as those who did the redecoration (has your paint peeled yet?) Fortunately, the mills of PfP grind slowly, and unlike those of the Almighty, they do not grind sure.

(6) There have been two main areas of concern recently. **One is trees and large shrubs in the back gardens adjoining the canal wall.** The question was whether these were now creating a situation which could be dangerous to passers-by and very costly to in terms of repairs. EVTRA pressed PfP, who have sent people to see and assess the situation. There seems to be goodwill on all sides, so hopefully the problems will be resolved acceptably.



(7) **The other problem is the large trees, particularly two ash trees by the Green.** Mike Jackson contacted the Tree Officer, who agreed that **they are infected with fungus, could certainly affect other trees, and could possibly become a danger to residents. They are therefore to be felled.** But PFP's mill, having ground unusually quickly, did so with strange results, including various other proposed fellings, and a body of residents protested. **The Tree Officer is currently creating a new proposal,** which will need to include the ash trees, but not necessarily any others. Residents will have the chance to consult on this.

(8) Mike Jackson has **made a proposal to replace the felled with ones which are less intrusive, and with less extensive roots, but in keeping with the village appearance.** Any proposal will be made public when it comes out.

(9) There is a further longer term question which EVTRA are currently looking into. **The current trees are in many cases forest trees.** (As we understand it, this was due to false economies at the time of planting). The trouble is that they grow, and they grow big. **This will therefore affect light, and may have other effects.**



We need therefore to get as clear a picture as possible of the current and likely future situation before getting advice on what should be done. Clearly **a balance is needed between the aesthetic and environmental benefits and possible threats to substructure. WE STRESS THAT SUCH PROBLEMS WOULD ARISE ONLY OVER YEARS, EVEN DECADES .** But we feel it is sensible to look at these matters now.

Residents are therefore invited to look at the areas around where they live and to note any difficulties, for example branches becoming a nuisance to neighbours, and pathways being forced up by roots. Just jot down your findings and send it to EVTRA via the website (: secretary@evtra.org.uk) with heading Landscape Survey. Once we have information we will report back.