

## Tree Report for WPRA AGM – 13 October 2018

During the past year since my last report work has continued on the identified problems from the Professional Tree Survey carried out in December 2016. You may recall that the two most urgent items were dealt with in June 2017 but the remaining items were delayed by the requirement for road traffic controls along the Woodhall Road.

This requirement meant that we had to have Council permission and it was such a slow process that in the end we put our own plan into place and the work was carried out in March 2018.

As our contractor uses up to date communications equipment it is possible to delay traffic for short periods while cutting is taking place and with appropriate road signs and manpower, four from them and one from ourselves, the work was completed safely. This saved a sum of around £1300.

This work was dead wooding the two oak trees 784 and 785 and felling the remains of oak tree 787.

In early August we received notice from the CEC that a bus had been damaged by one of our tree branches. Given that buses use the road continuously this seemed unlikely but on inspection it was seen that oak 784 had a torn limb (probably from a storm in June 2018) which had been gradually moving further down until in the range of buses.

As it was an emergency situation no planning permission was required and I also cleared with the Chair that the work should be done without estimates in advance. Fortunately, I was able to engage promptly our usual contractors who removed the branch on Friday 10 August. Their vehicle was used to block one lane of Woodhall Road, traffic signs were placed and traffic cones used to block the remaining lane when the cutting was done. (Communication equipment was used to allow this). The branch blocked the whole road but was cut and removed within two minutes to allow single file traffic.

Forthcoming work is required in the area behind Nos 2-12 where there are several trees that need attention and one dead sycamore for removal. I do not think any are a danger to people or property but will need dealing with as will a willow tree at the rear of No 9.

One final thing is the mention last year of some wyche elm saplings to plant out – but I am afraid they were destroyed before I was able to do so.

Derek Grant  
Tree Adviser