

9 July 2019

From Ian Bark, Chair BCOG

I write to explain the background works carried out to the hawthorn tree.

A tree survey for all the Town Council's green spaces is undertaken every few years, to ensure that trees are safe - particularly in public areas - by Dorset Council's arboriculturalist.

The latest survey, completed earlier this year, found this tree to have weak attachment points at the forks, and cross-rubbing to the main branches and stem. The recommended solution, to establish new pollard points at 3.0m, aims to maintain the tree in a healthy state. Without these works there is a risk that the tree's lifespan will be reduced.

I agree that the work carried out looks brutal, but I hope you will understand that it was done acting on professional advice in the best interests of the tree. They did not want to delay the works for the same reason and considered that the risk of further deterioration of the tree's condition to be too great to wait until next winter. Although winter pruning is undoubtedly preferable we have no reason to believe the tree will not recover fully. I very much hope and expect that we will see the tree back in full leaf next summer.

Prior to the work being carried out we have been assured that the tree was thoroughly checked for nesting birds before commencement.

The timber that has been removed is currently lying in the orchard and if it has not been removed from the site it is proposed that some of the larger sections are recovered as part of the Work Session this coming Sunday to be used as fuel for our fire bowl, and to create wildlife woodpile habitats around the site.

I hope this explains the background, and affirms our desire to maintain the health of the tree for many years to come.