

Following the storm damage to the oak tree in Orchards Way, the Committee commissioned a full tree assessment, and this was carried out by a specialist from Arbor-Eco on 6th May 2021. The specialist was very impressed with the whole appearance of the Estate and the many beautiful and often mature trees. 83 trees were identified and mapped, with a recommended action plan where deemed to be necessary. (Please see attached map for specific Tree (T) numbers)

The work to any tree on the Estate is subject to prior approval by Southampton City Council, and this is normally undertaken on our behalf by MJC Trees, who have acted as our tree surgeons for a number of years.

The majority of work recommended by Arbor-eco was routine maintenance and removal of dead wood. There was also a recommendation that some trees needed to have sucker growth removed, or their canopy raised to clear the roadway or footpath.

Three trees were recommended for removal. See 12, 13 and v (in bold) below.

The specific recommendations of Arbor-eco were:-

1. Coppice, to ground level, the Bay at the entrance to OW, to allow growth from the base, and to facilitate maintenance.
2. The Common oak in the Spinney (T7) has a phototropic stem, (distorted whilst competing for light with the Holm Oaks) but was deemed to be sound.
3. Hazel (T20) needs coppicing
4. Sight lines onto Brookvale Road from the Cut need to be improved, as well as potential damage to the adjacent property. (Group 2) Some trees to be removed, or pollarded.
5. Some shrubs in the Cut, to be reduced to form a denser hedgerow, thus allowing other trees to flourish.
6. Goat Willow (T43) to be coppiced to ground level.
7. The removal of many of old planting stakes, and clearing of weeds/grass around most of the fruit trees, to allow air and water to penetrate the roots.
8. Planting of young fruit trees where space allows, as some older ones may be nearing the end of their life span.
9. Planting of shallow rooting trees/shrubs was suggested as a way of preventing vehicle damage to verges (e.g. along 1-11 OW)
10. Concern about the tree in the frying pan, which is clearly failing to thrive. This could be due to a range of factors such as soil conditions, being root bound, or inadequate water provision.
11. Lime (T73) Horseshoe garages - to be pollarded (this work has been completed)
- 12. Mountain Ash– Horseshoe Green (T78)- dead - to be felled**
- 13. Common Ash - Horseshoe Green (T82) - Suffering from ash die back, and has to be felled for safety reasons.**
14. Some of the larger more mature trees have significant limbs; reducing their length would reduce the weight, and prolong the life of the tree. This includes Groundlord's recommendations and the Cedar of Lebanon in The Cut (T 33), as well as the Deodar Cedar (41 OW) (T 50), and the two Monterrey Pines (27 & 29 OW)

15. Some trees have exposed roots which are damaged during mowing.
Recommended covering with soil, and planting shade tolerant ground cover plants.
16. Provision of bird and bat boxes to encourage wildlife.
17. Suitable replanting with native species, where trees have to be felled.

Where there was need for closer examination at a higher level, Arbor-eco recommended that a climbing inspection of some of the most mature trees be considered, and this was subsequently undertaken by Groundlord on 9th June 2021. These were (T6) - Corsican pine in Spinney, (T67) Deodar Cedar (turning circle by post box); and (T68) Monterrey Pine, (T69) Monterrey Pine, (T70) Deodar cedar (adjacent to 25-29 OW)

Groundlord's key findings were:-

- i T6 - (Corsican Pine – Spinney) sound, but deadwood high in crown
- ii T67 - (Deodar Cedar – turning circle by postbox) reduce weight of limbs and replace cable bracing
- iii T68 - (Monterrey Pine – 29 OW) - Picus testing –(2 tests to examine the interior of the tree) was carried out 5th July 2021. Result – tree assessed as a major specimen tree, to be retained. Not considered unsound, recommended reduction of the weight of some limbs, and removal of deadwood. To be reviewed regularly.
- vi T69 - (Monterrey Pine - 27OW) considered sound – some deadwood
- v **T70 - (Deodar Cedar – 25 OW) - a very mature tree, with evidence of decay and potential risk in the future. No alternative other than to fell.** This application has been submitted to the City Council

Groundlord and MJC trees have been asked to carry out the relevant works, once the relevant permissions have been obtained from the City Council. MJC have scheduled dates for their work, 19th/20th August, and 9th/10th September. Following the Picus results, Groundlord has been asked to undertake the more complex work to the trees they assessed, and has submitted the applications. We anticipate that all the major work should be completed by the autumn.

It is planned that there will be regular re-assessments of Estate trees, which is likely to be carried out by the expert at Arbor-Eco.

We have been advised that the City Council permissions for felling, will necessitate the planting of replacement native trees. We are awaiting further information from the City Council, Arbor-Eco and local tree nurseries. Planting is likely to be undertaken during late autumn/early winter.

Any volunteers to construct bird or bat boxes will be welcomed!

Tree Plan Apologise for the “crowded” numbers on the plan

