

Clerk's summary:

Ken Carley has lobbied for APC to take more action to protect trees and other wildlife in the parish. He is supported by Mel who has proposed:

- APC lobbies the Government about tightening the law on protecting trees
- APC write to WC about their commitment to acting to mitigate the climate emergency and for them to better protect *existing* trees – making the point that new trees are just not as effective

Richard B has provided possible contact details at WC.

Verbatim emails are below in italics.

Liz Holland

30.5.23

*If the Parish Council decides to write to WC as Mel suggests I suggest that any submission should go jointly to the Leader, Cllr Richard Clewer, who retains the climate change portfolio and the senior Officer in overall control of WC's carbon reduction programme Ariane Crampton:
Ariane.Crampton@Wiltshire.gov.uk*

Richard

From: *mel.lawrence@alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk <mel.lawrence@alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk>*

Sent: *06 April 2023 10:54*

To: *clerk@alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk*

Cc: *'kcarley' <kencarley@tiscali.co.uk>; 'Cllr Elaine Hartford'*

<elaine.hartford@alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk>; Britton, Richard

<Richard.Britton@wiltshire.gov.uk>

Subject: *RE: Trees*

I think there is a case for lobbying government to tighten up the law on established trees as TPOs, whilst being a good tool in the fight, only work if you know in advance likely victims of felling and even then can be challenged and remember we only currently have Shane to handle the whole of South Wilts. It may be that the info I had from Jane Wright, who was on secondment to WC, that three new tree officers are being appointed (admittedly only for 18/12 initially) will help us as they can assist Shane and will be available for training to Tree Wardens, PCs and others.

I think we could formally write to WC, (with our tree policy attached which you will find on the website Liz), reminding them they declared a climate emergency in 2019 and also the Police actually (the arm that enforces nesting protection) that we want more protection generally for older trees - the massacre of central Salisbury for the river project doesn't augur well though. It simply isn't good enough to say you will replant because of the obvious time lapse in any benefit gained from new planting. Ash dieback will be quoted too as a reason to fell which is not always appropriate - can be used as an excuse as some trees do survive.

I do like to support Ken who has a wealth of knowledge on trees. biodiversity etc

Mel

-----Original Message-----

From: clerk@alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Sent: Thursday, April 6, 2023 3:39am

To: "kcarley" <kencarley@tiscali.co.uk>

Cc: "Cllr Elaine Hartford" <elaine.hartford@alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk>, mel.lawrence@alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk, richard.britton@wiltshire.gov.uk

Subject: Trees

Thanks, Ken, for your comprehensive list.

Please can I assure you there are no 'secretive consultations' going on with Formula Land. The letter to be sent to them in the coming days was discussed with John Turley (for the SRAA) at the drafting stage and some of his wording and ideas were incorporated. The letter will be amended as per the discussion at the parish council public meeting on Monday, sent to FL and then published on the website. This feels to me to be sufficiently transparent. I do wonder what else you think is going on? Please do let me know.

Turning to tress: by 'closed season' I assume you mean for the nesting season. You will know better than me that this is poorly protected in law. We would need to make a case that the cutting deliberately ignored known bird nests. I imagine most of the trees you mention have no additional protection. The RSPB advises calling the police if you feel a law is being broken. Certainly, councillors have no role getting involved in any 'enforcement' action beyond that of an individual citizen.

What is it you propose the council does? I have noted the requests to sponsor further TPOs and this will be on the May agenda. Would you like me to propose an agenda item that the council writes to the people/companies involved expressing disappointment/anger/frustration on behalf of Alderbury? If that can get a councillor to support it (Mel would you like to take this forward?), I would happily word that for May. I do not see an enforcement role here for WC, but if you can make a case for us and advice who might listen, we could agenda a letter to them, too.

I think you were in the room when support was given to backing further environmental projects in the village, starting at Spiders Island. We cannot change what has happened but do need to be part of what the future looks like.

Alderbury is so lucky to have such a committed campaigner as you Ken! I do want to give the council opportunities to support you but it has to be within the bounds of their powers and responsibilities.

Liz

Liz Holland
Clerk to Alderbury Parish Council

clerk@alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk
07922 424452

PO BOX 2366
Salisbury
SP2 2NY

www.alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

From: kcarley <kencarley@tiscali.co.uk>

Sent: 05 April 2023 17:20

To: clerk@alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Subject: RE: Trees - what else?!

The trees which are the subject of the change of mind are the ones between the two fields which are the subject of some rather secretive consultations taking place with Formula Land. It would be a good idea if more information were made public on this matter. As I said it would be a good idea if any trees alongside the bypass were also protected as they are very important in trapping particulate pollutants from road traffic.

Castle lane has a property which has been newly purchased and the new owner has taken it upon himself to fell some large trees. This has been undertaken during the closed season for tree felling. One of these is large oak (these harbour many hundreds of species and it is extremely important that they are preserved) I attended this incident and have photographs of the destruction. One of our counsellors lives next door to this property and observed the felling but did not take any action to stop it – she did speak at the end of the meeting.

In addition to this I attended another incident at Kiln Close after a phone call from Elaine. The vegetation on the top of the large railway embankment was being cleared – one again within the closed season for this kind of work. Had long conversation with the machine operator who claimed to have carried out a risk assessment but the value of this cannot be verified and seems to be rather a bogus claim. Local residents very concerned as no notification given before the work commenced. Spoke to Sara Stevens at number 2 very alarmed at possible intention to demolish the embankment and put up a retaining wall. This site was the subject of a previous planning application which was considered rather fanciful as the available land was very small. The land has now been purchased by a developer who has come up with this rather strange plan. There a number of trees on the embankment which act to stabilise it. The composition of the structure is not known but it does act as a small nature reserve and a noise barrier to the bypass. This was reported to you in an email. Also along Southampton Road a rather ugly fence has been erected at a property opposite the Heathers – in carrying out this work some tree trimming was carried out again in the closed season. All this seems to be taking place following work on Clarendon Road where a large amount of felling is taking place in the ancient forest area (not part of Alderbury)

All in all this does not look good for the Summer as many hedges have not been trimmed before the closed period and there is a habit of looking at other sites and using them as a precedent. It would be very useful to increase the number of protected tree within the village as we have lost so many and this is changing the nature of Alderbury which has always been considered noted for its trees.

At a time of climate change etc the worst possible course of action is the attack we are experiencing now on our vegetation and wildlife.

The payback time on replanting trees is quoted as 100 years so that is a secondary action which is rather futile.

I do feel very strongly about this but my studies and experience are supported by a huge amount of evidence which I am only too willing to share with any who are prepared to listen.

We need action and the PC is where this should originate.

Regards

Ken

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: clerk@alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Sent: 04 April 2023 21:06

To: kencarley@tiscali.co.uk

Subject: Trees - what else?!

Hi Ken,

I am trying to minute which trees councillors asked me to add to next month's agenda.

I remember you mentioning a row of trees along the bypass – I thought on the Formula Land site – for TPOs but in my notes I reference Castle Lane.

Please can you let me know what which (both?) you think they agreed to bring forward.

I think the trees at Castle Lane may be gone already so perhaps there is nothing to be done.

Thanks Ken!
Liz

Liz Holland
Clerk to Alderbury Parish Council