

Tree Warden report

There are no issues that I know of regarding trees that are not already in hand.

I was asked for recommendations on planting some more free elms which should be in the recreation area. I disagree with this choice. There are enough trees in this area for now. Again, think about planting more in 10-20 years. We need to think ahead about the Battery and I have discussed this issue with others. We do need to consider under-planting now, as many of the big trees are coming to end of life. Broad leaved trees grow quite slowly maybe only one foot per year so I am thinking 20 years on.

The Council may wish that there are no trees but I think that will be unpopular. A number of existing trees have been butchered, just ugly trunks left without foliage. There must be a reason for that, maybe cost. There are also a number of Cherry trees, one of which will be removed in January but these trees have a relatively short life.

I strongly recommend a rethink on this issue and elms would be my preferred choice for planting at the Battery, as they grow tall and straight, whereas in the Rec we chose differently.

I only needed to water the 2 new elms twice this year as it was so wet. They both look healthy and I will probably remove the guards in the spring.

Tony Gaster. 27th November 2024