

DETAILS 1

St Michaels Church Emley - Commissioned Report (TCC-1288-1 STEPHEN WATERSON).

An Expert Report has been produced by Tree Care Consultancy which has been Commissioned by Mr David Pearson Warden & Treasurer of St Michaels Church Emley.

This detailed report relates to the condition of all of the trees owned & managed by St Michaels Church Emley

We request permission to implement the relevant sections of this Report relating to House Nos 7 & 8 St Michaels Gardens Emley.

The Report was given to us prior to a meeting with the Full PCC earlier this year. to discuss its recommendations.

Lack of Funding was stated as being the reason given that the Church would not be able to implement its recommendations.

However were informed at that Meeting with the PCC that we could apply directly to yourselves for permission for the report to be implemented. Subject to Permission being granted by yourselves for Points 6 to 9 contained within the Report, we would be happy meet with the PCC & discuss how we may financially support the work recommended to be undertaken

The positioning & selection of the replacement trees would be determined by Yourselves & The PCC

Relevant Sections Quoted from the Tree Care Consultancy Report (Points 6 to 9) (TCC-1288-1 STEPHEN WATERSON)

Future Considerations in Terms of Maintaining Healthy Mature Tree Cover and Species Diversity

6. The majority of the site's tree population is represented by large early-mature specimens.

However the concern with having predominately large, mature trees representing the majority of the site's tree population is that these trees will age and generally decline and die at relatively similar times. In order to preserve a degree of continuous mature tree cover on site into the long term there needs to be a healthy and equal collection of trees ranging in age from young through to mature specimens. In order to achieve this periodic removal and replacement planting should be developed to ensure the tree stock onsite is being constantly replenished, possibly at five to ten year intervals.

7. The second concern highlighted during the survey was the lack of species diversity onsite. The tree population is made up of mainly Sycamore. The issue with a lack of species diversity comes from the threat of species specific pests and diseases. So, for example, if a new pest or disease reached the UK shores infecting and killing Sycamore, then a high percentage of St Michael's trees would be threatened.

8. To conclude, it is recommended that any new planting that is carried out on site includes a wider range of species preferably large growing species providing they are being planted in a suitable area with adequate space to develop.

Species such as Oak, Lime, Maple, Hornbeam, Scots Pine and Turkish Hazel are a few examples.

Implementing the Tree Work

9. The recommended tree work included within this report should be carried out by a suitably qualified, experienced and insured contractor. The contractor should carry out the work in accordance with the recommendations contained in the BS 3998: 2010 'Tree Work Recommendations'.

The Report further advises that the Local Planning Authority may consider it appropriate through the Tree Preservation Order procedures to provide for a phased removal and replacement of these trees over an agreed period of time. Were this approach to be viewed favourably it follows that

T2941, T2942, T2943, T2944, T2945, T2947 & T2956

would be the more obvious candidates for removal under a phase 1 removal and replanting proposal

Our own Notes regarding the present perceived amenity value of these Specific trees & the immediate surrounding area of the Graveyard down the back & side of the Church

Government Guidelines Quotes the following :

"The extent to which the trees or woodlands can be seen by the public will inform the authority's assessment of whether the impact on the local environment is significant. The trees, or at least part of them, should normally be visible from a public place, such as a road or footpath, or accessible by the public."

However

1. The trees requested to be removed & replanted stand approx 300 feet from the main vantage point of Church Street being the last in line of some 16 trees. (Plan No 1)

The viewing angle from Church Street for the line of trees is at right angles to the view point & are therefore only a distant sight. (Plan No 1)

When approaching the Church from the Main Road via the main pathway they are unseen by the Congregation as these specific trees are to the rear of the church (Plan No 1)

2. The path around the Church & onwards to the current grave yard is not adjacent to the trees & no grass cutting within 20 feet of these trees has been routinely undertaken & vegetation currently exceeds a height of 3 feet 6 inches. (Photo No 1)

At no time has pruning or maintenance to these trees been undertaken to improve & enhance their shapes & health by the Church in the 30 years we have occupied the premises.

The Report also identifies excessive Ivy growth which is detrimental to the tree's well being (Photo 2)

We can only conclude from our experience of over 30 years that because of the lack of funding, the PCC are unable to maintain the environment at this side of the Church.

Without urgent attention this will continue to remain an eye sore

It is clear they regard this area as being of little Amenity Value

The lack of urgency to repair the Dry Stone Boundary Wall running the full length of these trees is further evidence of the neglect. This wall has been damaged & left unsafe for some three years. The Temporary placement of a group of Industrial Metal railings designed to limit Public access create an even worse eyesore & have been in place for approx 12 months.(Photo No 3)

The work proposed within the Church's Report if implemented will enhance the Church's Environment & we will be able to help with funding the project as it relates to our properties.

The action proposed by Tree Care Consultancy will start to properly maintain a healthy and equal collection of trees ranging in age from young through to mature specimens for future generations