To: Upwood Estate Management Co. Ltd.

From: Mr David Havenhand, DH Tree Services

08 October 2024

Recommendations of tree works on Fairmead Park.

Issue

1. Fairmead Park (Upwood, Huntingdonshire) has more than 80 trees (under TPO's) which have had very little maintenance for (potentially) up to 10 years. This lack of maintenance has resulted in trees becoming increasingly dangerous and/or restrictive to the residence and visitors to the estate.

Recommendations

2. Upwood Estate Management Co. Ltd. are invited to consider:

   a. that trees L/TPO/193 in areas G1 and G2, as a matter of priority, have a combination of crown-lifts and considered lateral reductions of the lower branches to allow safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles transiting the area in the vicinity of Anson Close.

   b. that trees within the L/TPO/193 - T40 to T70 range are 'dead-wooded' to reduce the risk to residents and property from falling branches.

   c. that a long term, continued plan of maintenance be established to; keep risk to residents and visitors to minimum, all footpaths and roads clear from obstructions and maintain the general health of the trees on the estate.

Background

3. In the vicinity of Anson Close there are a number of trees (L/TPO/193, Label G1 & G2 (Areas)) whose growth is now heavily impeding on both pedestrians (in the case of G1) and vehicles (in the case of G2). The growth is now to an extent that pedestrians are unable to use the footpath and forced onto the road (see Fig 1). Parking areas in the vicinity are now also severely restricted (See Fig 2). The growth between areas G1 and G2 (Anson Close) is severely restricting vehicle access. Cars transiting the road are forced onto opposite side of the road. (See Fig. 3) Larger vehicles transiting the road could sustain considerable damage. Likewise, the trees will also experience damage over time from passing vehicles. It is recommended **that trees L/TPO/193 in areas G1 and G2, as a matter of priority, have a combination of crown-lifts and considered lateral reductions of the lower branches to allow safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles transiting the area in the vicinity of Anson Close.**



Fig. 1 - Restricted footpath ivo Anson Close (G2).



Fig. 2 - Restricted parking ivo Anson Close (G2).



Fig. 3 – Heavily overgrown restricting vehicular access (G1&G2)

4. Trees within range, L/TPO/193 T40 to T70, at the northern limits of the estate (3x grassed areas flanked by Lancaster Road to Hart Road) have significant dead wood (see Fig 4). These branches are large and some have already fallen. Some, still in situ, hung-up by lower branches (See Fig 5). Many of these dead branches are also showing signs of decay. It is considered a medium to low risk that these branches are likely to fall imminently however, over time this risk will increase. Similarly, high winds as frequently experienced in this area, could exacerbate this risk. Given the size of these branches, the visible decay and that the areas are frequently used as playing areas, it is recommended ***that trees within the L/TPO/193 T40 to T70 range are 'dead-wooded' to reduce the risk to residents and property from falling branches.***



Fig. 4 - Example of dead branches (T68).



Fig. 5 - Hung-up branch (T53).

5. Throughout the estate there are increasing number trees which, without continued maintenance, will start to cause issues such as those described in para's 3 & 4. This will include encroaching growth onto the carriageways and footpaths, falling dead branches and general tree health. Examples of where these encroachments are starting to become apparent can be seen in Fig 6 & 7. Therefore, it is recommended **that a long term, continued plan of maintenance be established to; keep risk to residents and visitors to minimum, all footpaths and roads clear from obstructions and maintain the general health of the trees on the estate.**

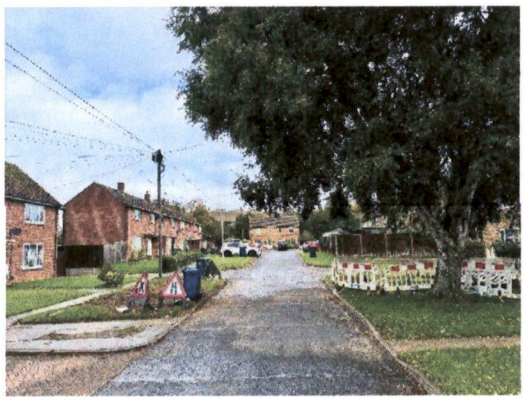


Fig. 6 - Encroachment on Liberator Rd (T76).



Fig. 7- Encroachment on Lincoln Rd (T43).

Summary

6. The general health of the trees on the Fairmead Park is considered good displaying strong vigour. However, without maintenance, this growth has started to impede on use of roads, footpaths, and general safety of the residents. These more urgent works should be initiated in the near term. Continued maintenance of the trees on the estate should subsequently be planned to minimise recurrence of these restrictions and safety concerns, which will worsen if left untreated.

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