



# Andover Town Council

To **consider** an update on a Tree issue at Vigo Road and to decide on actions.

Item No. **10**

**Produced for:** Allotments Committee

**By:** Town Clerk.

**Date of Report:** 26 May 2023

History – July 2022 Minute no: AC 105/07/22

**Job no: 2252** – Vigo Road Conifer Tree Works, reduce height and spread by up to 2 m to create a more compact form. Process and remove all arisings from site to a licensed facility. Also, to cover the handling, ground based operations of setting up and tidying the site after the works are completed.

£726.00 + VAT (£145.20) = £871.20

It was proposed by Councillor L Gregori and seconded by Councillor D Coole that the quotes for job no's 2263 (parts 1 and 2), 2243, 2262 and 2252 be accepted and approved.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

**RESOLVED: That the quotes for job no's 2263 (parts 1 and 2), 2243, 2262 and 2252 be accepted and approved.**

Invoiced on 16/8/2022, invoice no. 2022841 paid in 2022.

## Conifer & Buddleia Trees at Vigo Road site 28/06/2022 (note this is LAST year)

### Purpose of the Report

To inform the Committee of the hazard of issues being caused to local residents by the Conifer tree near plot 44 Vigo Road. We have received residents' complaints about the height and width of the conifer tree and the shading and mess the tree causes the neighbours that gardens back directly onto these trees.

### Background

- Over a period of time, we have received complaints about the tall and overhanging trees mentioned above. The conifer tree has grown to approx. 15 ft tall and become very wide in width too. This means it is blocking light and sunlight into the neighboring gardens.
- The resident got so fed up with all the bits coming over into his garden last year, from both the conifer and buddleia trees that 'Without the Town Council Allotment officer's permission' he came round and cut the Buddleia tree right back.
- The tenant complained this had happened and we informed him we had not been made aware they wanted to do this as hadn't seeked our permission. Therefore, an official letter was sent to the residents advising them not to do this again and if they wanted it trimmed back to inform the officers first so we could act accordingly.
- The residents have been complaining again the last few months (as we are now in summer months) and therefore the officers have discussed the situation with the Tenant and asked him to trim the buddleia tree on his plots. The tenant advised the officers they 'inherited' the Conifer tree and did not plant it themselves. (It looks like the conifer may have been planted by the previous residents many years ago, before the allotment was replaced a few years ago). The Conifer tree is not actually on the tenant's plot either and along the main pathway backing directly onto our main boundary fence and overhanging into the residents back garden.
- The officers have agreed with the tenant and residents to get the conifer tree trimmed, the width narrowed and also the top taken out. (The tenant has provided a photo as he advised he uses the tree as shading for his plants).
- The officers have requested the tenant to trim the 'Buddleia' tree as this in encroaching on the residents back garden and into their shed they've advised us.

During lockdown period the residents have built a new 'Patio area' and use the end of their garden directly backing onto the Allotment boundary fence for their Children's paddling pool (as gets the most sun in their garden), so ends up covered in debris from the conifer tree and the buddleia tree too, they've advised us.

**Current Situation**

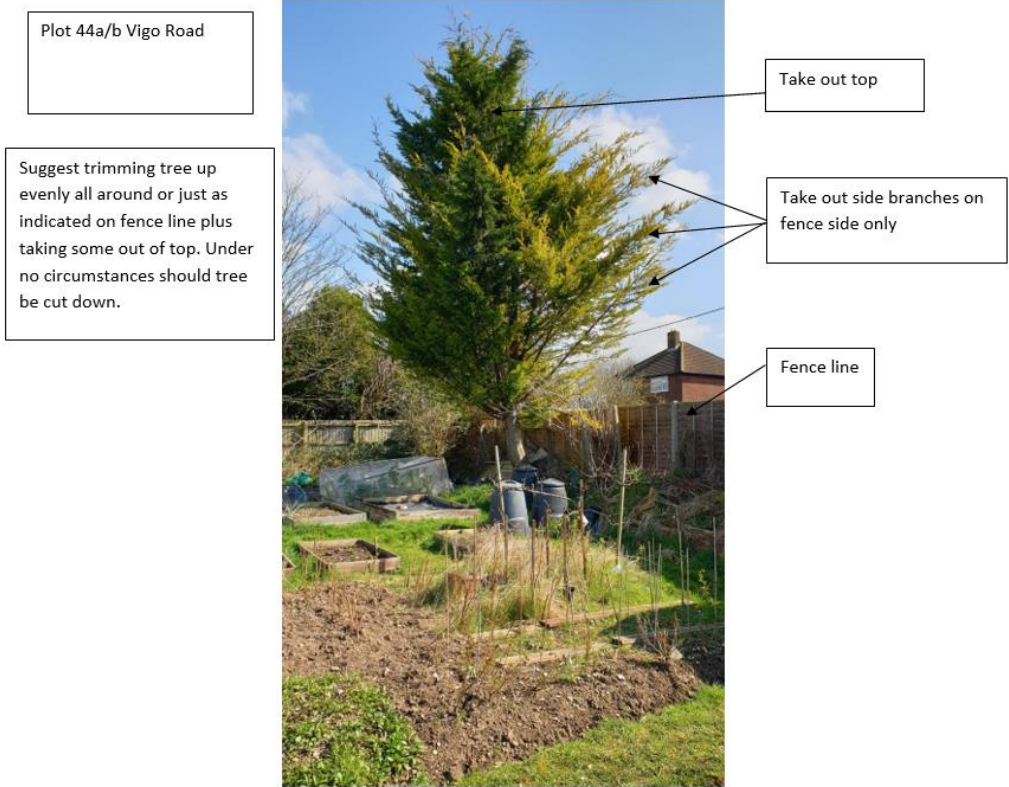
- The current position is the officers have obtained a 'Quotation' from our regular contractor that does all our maintenance jobs. As the Conifer tree is so tall it needs a 'Special tree Surgeon' to do the works involved and needs 'rigging' due to it's height.

Officers to present the Allotment Committee with the Quotation provided with costs involved (please see separate attachment) .

**Recommendations/Future Actions required**

The Committee to Instruct the officers to get the works carried out immediately to avoid any further unnecessary issues to the local residents and prevent any further conflict between the residents and the nearby tenant.

Tree at Plot 44a Vigo



**JUNE 2023.**

This year we have been contacted by the same owners of the neighbouring property who have advised that they are still suffering from:

<b>ISSUES RAISED:</b>	<b>POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS for COUNCILLORS CONSIDERATION.</b>
<p>1. The Conifer Tree – Shade issues as well as vegetation dropping into their garden causing a mess to play area and swimming pool.</p>	<p>A. Cut overhanging branches back fully (will cut tree in half)                      B. Cut tree down completely (approx. £520+VAT)                      C. Await tree survey (if already approved for site) and ask arboriculturist for advice.</p>
<p>2. Buddleia bush overgrown, encroaching into their garden through the fence.</p>	<p>These are issues that the tenant of the plot is responsible for.                      Non-cultivation letters have been sent for both plots. On 17<sup>th</sup> July a re-inspection will take place and if no improvement a second letter will be sent as per Rules and Regs 3.21.                      Previous Inspection reports follow to demonstrate the severity of the undergrowth that is remaining on plots 44a and 44b. It should be noted that the brambles around the polytunnel frame next to the greenhouse are now shoulder height. Contractors have been asked to quote to clear both plots and an invoice will be sent to the tenant with their next non-cultivation letter.</p>
<p>3. Brambles and extremely overgrown vegetation coming through their fence area into their children's play space.</p>	

## Allotment Inspection

Site	Vigo Road	Overall condition Needs improvement	
Allotment	00044B		
Inspected by	Gail Foster	Inspected on	10/03/23

Cultivation status 50% Cultivated

Plants encroaching neighbouring allotment

Hazards			
Asbestos	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boundary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gates	<input type="checkbox"/>	Communal paths / roads	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water storage	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermin / pest control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fertilisers / chemicals	<input type="checkbox"/>
Compost bins	<input type="checkbox"/>	Glass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire prevention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Structures (sheds/buildings)	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Hedges	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Refuse	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Ponds	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Fuel	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Trip hazards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Fixtures / fittings	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Fencing	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Carpets	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Trees	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Bonfires	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Signs	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p><b>Action taken</b></p>	<p><b>Action required</b></p> <p>Clearance of Brambles and undergrowth.</p> <p>Removal of polytunnel frame unless going to be used this season.</p> <p>Clear up of slabs / glass around green house.</p> <p>Removal of vegetation against fence.</p>
<p><b>Notes</b></p>	



## Allotment Inspection

Site	Vigo Road	Overall condition	Poor
Allotment	00044B		
Inspected by	Nick Turner-Howe	Inspected on	16/06/23

### Cultivation status

Plants encroaching neighbouring allotment

<b>Hazards</b>			
Asbestos	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boundary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gates	<input type="checkbox"/>	Communal paths / roads	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water storage	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermis / pest control	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fertilisers / chemicals	<input type="checkbox"/>
Compost bins	<input type="checkbox"/>	Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire prevention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Structures (sheds/buildings)	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Hedges	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Refuse	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Ponds	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Fuel	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Trip hazards	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Fixtures / fittings	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Fencing	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Carpets	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Trees	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Bonfires	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Signs	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p><b>Action taken</b></p>	<p><b>Action required</b></p> <p>Please take the following action within 28 days:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strim/cut back and remove all brambles. It is noted that some are chest height.</li> <li>2. Cut back the Buddleija and ensure it does not encroach on the neighbours property.</li> <li>3. Remove any debris / rubbish / broken glass and any prohibited items.</li> <li>4. Strim the tall grasses and mow the grass around the plot.</li> <li>5. Cultivate and increase planting to the minimum requirement.</li> <li>6. Ensure that the fence is easily accessible.</li> <li>7. Remove the poly tunnel frame which has been left on site for years.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Notes</b></p>	



## Allotment Inspection

Site	Vigo Road	Overall condition	
Allotment	00044A		
Inspected by	Nick Turner-Howe	Inspected on	16/06/23

**Cultivation status**

Plants encroaching neighbouring allotment

<b>Hazards</b>							
Asbestos	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boundary	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hedges	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fencing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gates	<input type="checkbox"/>	Communal paths / roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	Refuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carpets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	Water storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ponds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trees	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermih / pest control	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fertilisers / chemicals	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fuel	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bonfires	<input type="checkbox"/>
Compost bins	<input type="checkbox"/>	Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trip hazards	<input type="checkbox"/>	Signs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire prevention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Structures (sheds/buildings)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fixtures / fittings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p><b>Action taken</b></p>          	<p><b>Action required</b></p> <p>Please take the following action within 28 days:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strim/cut back and remove all brambles.</li> <li>2. Cut back the nettles and vegetation and ensure it does not encroach on the neighbours property.</li> <li>3. Remove any debris / rubbish and any prohibited items.</li> <li>4. Strim the tall grasses and mow the grass around the plot.</li> <li>5. Cultivate and increase planting on to the minimum requirement.</li> <li>6. Ensure that the fence is easily accessible.</li> <li>7. Remove all cut back vegetation from site.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Notes</b></p>          	

