

Report of Environment Committee Meeting on 15th Jan.2013

at 8.30 a.m. in Committee Room of School House, Otford.

Present – Mary Evans, Jane Lawrey, Charmian Marsh, Elizabeth Ward.

The very wet weather has continued, hopefully it will improve so that voluntary working parties can take place in various parts of the village.

Concern continues over CHALARA FRAXINEA (ash dieback). Otford has a considerable number of Ash trees. It is intended to include an item in Parish Newsletters reminding folk to keep a watch on any trees known to them and notify the Parish Office if the disease is suspected. A diseased Ash has been felled on the site adjoining Gulliver's in Station Road.

Litter Picking - by the above ladies has continued from the station bridge, Station Road, Pilgrims' Way East, down Tudor Drive and the footpath to the Station past the Scout Hut including the chalkpit. There is some very unpleasant graffiti on the Scout hut which needs removal. M.E. advised that her dogs had found a complete loaf in the trees surrounding the Chalkpit. Check again if rubbish is being dumped from the rear gardens of Tudor Drive.

Oxenhill Woods - area is Very muddy! **Half yearly meeting 13th March**

Car Park- Sadly there is a possibility that the Lime tree in the main area may be removed, when the resurfacing. It is hoped that a few trees of delicate foliage could be planted along the fence bordering the rec, to soften the impact without obstructing too much of the lovely view of the Darent valley, e.g. Rowan or Silver Birch. In previous correspondence we had information about 'Trees to Treasure' Project, the necessary forms will be perused to see if we can use this for the above and also replace trees of different species, e.g. Crab Apple and Hazel, to replace the Trafalgar Oaks at the northern end (suffering from being planted in a chalk bank) when they are replanted elsewhere in the village.

Weather permitting, a 'reccy' of the trees on the main rec on 21st January at 1.30 pm., using the report from the judge of the 'Kent Men of the Trees'.

Station to Churchyard Footpath – The whole path could do with a sweep to remove dead leaves and debris from the sides - particularly nearer the churchyard. Try and book a mid-week working party.

Check - on the cherry trees fronting the Church Hall in the High Street. Ask Brian Thomas about ownership and care.

Also check that suckers are cut back from the base of the 5 Oak trees on the verge in Pilgrims' Way West near Telston Lane.

Telston Park - It is hoped to have a tidy up and prepare a site for a White Barked Silver Birch to be planted on 4th March commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This is a part of our prize from Kent Men of the Trees competition last year. Representatives from K M o T will attend together with the local press. Another tree is a Rowan and the third is an English Oak. The site for latter commemorative tree has yet to be found as it must not be on chalk soil. Bernard Worssam is to be consulted on the soils of Otford.

Hale Lane - T L C is needed on the newly planted trees as ties and stakes need checking as well as crossed branches. Brian Thomas to be contacted to arrange a date.

Correspondence

- 1) Report from Brian Thomas on his Inspection of The Chalkpit area.
- 2) Information from Kent Highways re. Removal of 3 trees in Well Road.
- 3) email from Alan Riley, KCC detailing work on the above. No funding for any replacements.
- 4) Information from NWKCP, an all day workshop on Sat. 19th Jan. at Visitor Centre Sevenoaks Wildfowl Reserve 'Migrating towards better Rivers for the Darent and the Cray 9.30am – 3.00pm Rod Shelton and John Verrall may be attending on behalf of OPC.
- 5) email from Rod Shelton re the state of Bridle-path Otford to Shoreham, KCC to be approached for work to be done.

Dates for the year - all on a Tuesday at 8 30 a.m. in School House.
March 12th. May 14th. July 16th. Sept 17th. Nov 12th.

Working party Tues. 5th February time t.b.a.

Cllr Elizabeth Ward 21 Jan 2013