

Manor Road – Conservation Area

The Parish Council has an obligation to maintain the Conservation Area in Manor Road. As part of this SODC Tree Officers have asked the Parish Council to consider succession planning for the yew trees. The Parish Council is seeking to remove the existing trees (with the exception of the yews) on the left-hand side of the Conservation Area (as you enter Manor Road from the High Street – see picture below).



This would mean removing new sucker Elm trees which ultimately suffer from Dutch Elm's disease and die, an Ash which is at risk of Ash Dieback and Sycamores which have self-seeded and multiply rapidly. There is an on-going cost for removing the Elms once they die as well as ensuring that the Sycamores don't grow too low over the road.

The Parish Council is considering re-creating the yew tree avenue which originally lined both sides of the road. This would also enable the village to make a contribution towards combating climate change; it would also be a fitting way to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It would reduce on-going maintenance costs. Before starting this work the Parish Council will ensure that no bat roosts are disturbed and will not commence the work until after the nesting season.

Several Parishioners have very kindly agreed to pay for the new yew trees whilst the Parish Council will fund the removal of the existing trees.

The Parish Council are interested to hear your views on this proposal.

Please note that the closing date for comments is Friday 6th May 2022. The Parish Council will discuss the responses at their May meeting on Thursday 12th May 2022. The Parish Council will store your responses for a period of two months during which we may contact you to discuss your comments in more detail. After that all e-mails and responses provided by other methods will be destroyed. Your responses will only be shared with other Cllrs and the Parish Clerk. The Parish Council may choose to publish a report explaining the suggestions received and considered; no names of residents will be used.

Please e-mail me (Cllr Higley) at cllrhigley.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com with your views.

16th April 2022