

Trees Survey

In May 2017 the CGM group carried out a survey of all the trees on land owned by Chatteris Town Council and made recommendations on work which should be undertaken. The cost of the survey was £264.

The work was carried out in the autumn by AC Tree Surgery of Littleport after they put in the most competitive quote. The cost was £2,310.

For insurance purposes it is recommended that trees are inspected every three years and a new survey is therefore due.

AC Tree Surgery no longer appear to be in business as their telephone number is defunct.

The Council's gardening contractors R J Warren have confirmed they are not qualified to carry out a tree survey but they are qualified to carry out any tree works recommended by a survey. They also have a company who carry out surveys on their behalf.

Decision

If Councillors agree that a tree survey should be commissioned members are asked to decide if they wish the CGM Group or a company recommended by R J Warren to carry out that survey.

Other Tree News

The original tree survey noted that the two Willow trees on the approach road to the Little Acre Fen Pocket Park were in need of attention.

At the time it was believed the trees belonged to the County Council. After the Clerk contacted them on a few occasions about the state of the trees, including earlier this year, the Council finally replied stating they believed the trees belonged to Anglian Water.

The Clerk then contacted Anglian Water who agreed to investigate if they owned the trees. A few months on the Clerk went back to Anglian Water because she believed the trees were now in a dangerous state. At the timing of writing this report Anglian Water had yet to reply to the concerns.

In the recent high winds branches fell from the tree, fortunately on to farmland and not on to the road, and there was a large branch hanging down over the road. The Clerk feared this would fall in the next high wind and was worried it would fall either on to people walking beneath the tree or on to a vehicle.

With the park now so popular the Clerk felt the Council had a duty of care to the park users and, in consultation with the Mayor and the Financial Officer, took the decision to ask R J Warren's to remove the hanging branch at the Council's expense.

Councillors are now asked to consider if they are prepared to pay for further works to the tree, if Anglian Water fail to respond, to ensure the safety of people using the park.