

Dunchideock Parish  
Council,  
C/o Edward Ellis, Esq,  
Dunchideock Barton,  
Dunchideock,  
Exeter,  
Devon

Rupert Baker  
49 East St  
Ashburton  
Devon  
TQ13 7AQ

Tel 01364 652217  
Mob 07875 572487

e-mail: e-mail 1: rupert\_baker@tiscali.co.uk  
e-mail 2: elaineandrupert@hotmail.com  
www.rupertbaker-treeconsultant.co.uk

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## Lime tree adjacent to post box, Dunchideock, Junction Exeter road and School Lane

Councillors,

You will be aware that I was contacted by Mr Ellis, and gave a price for examining the above-mentioned tree. This letter can be taken as a formal report into its condition.

I have now visited site and examined the tree. It is a Common Lime (*Tilia x vulgaris*), about 75cm (30") in diameter. It has been heavily crown-reduced at some time in the past. It has a major lesion – dead area- on its northern side, which has been present for a good many years, judging by the growth of reaction wood on either side. The exposed wood is rotting, with extensive decay throughout the centre of the trunk. Using a sounding hammer confirmed that the tree was hollowing extensively.

Of equal concern was the condition of the crown, which was very sparse, with few healthy leaves. This is generally a sign of significant root death, leading to difficulty in absorbing water and nutrients; and in safety terms, to concern as to the tree's stability.

A risk rating for the tree was derived from the inspection, using the now updated QTRA system. This, using my inputs for target rating, size of tree, and probability of failure, gave a risk rating of 1:4000 of the tree failing and causing injury or damage in the next 12 months. This is a sufficiently high risk that, under the guidelines of the Health and Safety Executive, it should not be imposed on third parties such as road users. Action therefore needs to be taken to reduce the risk. The only option for this is to have the tree felled.

On the basis of my inspection, I regret to have to recommend that the tree is felled before the winter gales set in.

According to Teignbridge District Council's interactive mapping, there is no legal protection to the tree. It can therefore be felled without notifying the District council. There are a number of young basal shoots arising around the tree, any one of which could be recruited as a replacement.

The opinion expressed in this letter is valid for a period of 1 year from the date of survey. The condition of trees, and their immediate surroundings, can change as a result of climatic conditions, severe weather, and the effect of diseases, pests, and abiotic factors.

I have attached an invoice to cover my time in preparing this.

Yours Sincerely

Rupert Baker BSc(Hons) Dip Arb (RFS) M Arbor A