

Quality of trees in public places and private gardens

The lime and sweet chestnut trees in Walk 1 are very impressive as are the unusually straight and tall oaks in the second walk maintained by the PC at Potters Mede. The backdrop of fine specimens around the parish is in good heart both in public and private land. The importance of mature (ancient?) woodland to the south of the Parish may benefit from a closer evaluation. There was not enough time to get stuck in.

Private landowners have many mature trees in gardens and along margins – field and quarry.

The conditions of any specimen trees e.g. commemorative

The PC was unlucky to plant their replacement Red Maple for the stricken Millennium Oak so close to a year of extremes (frost and drought). I have offered some detailed encouragement to have another go as this position has some local importance and the residents were closely involved in the choice of tree. Again, the two PC walks give opportunities to get up close to some magnificent trees. The ancient/mature woodland to the south benefits from some public rights of way and some other paths and tracks, but that area was not visited.

Evidence of new planting and the suitability to the location

The PC has committed to continued new planting (Potters Mede sports field and the Recreation Ground) and this should be applauded. It is worth noting the interest and support from residents in voting for the Red Maple as well as enabling planting of scions of the Millennium oak in Potters Mede. The PC are also actively pursuing opportunities to increase the stock of amenity land as a by-product of developments and repurposing exhausted quarries. The active pursuit of opportunities to recruit land to amenity use may lead to other planting opportunities. I should like to see the vandalised saplings replaced, perhaps adopting a 'messy' zone to discourage casual vandalism while the trees become established. Past suggestions have included *Callery pear* or other fastigate trees could be considered – e.g. (to confound vandalism) *Ilex crenata* 'Fastigiata' - Japanese holly 'Fastigiata'!

General care of trees in the village

Trees in private ownership are numerous and they appeared healthy and varied. The lime avenue leading to Basted House is kept free of epicormic growth at ground level. Privately owned trees are important for a small Parish that is so heavily built up and affecting by sand and limestone quarrying. To their credit, the PC does seek actively to gain amenity plots alongside the development pressures they face.

Response to previous visits and any suggestions made by the judges

Control of ivy has been taking place throughout. While there has been new planting and the promise of more into the future, past suggestions for succession planting to fill gaps along the west edge of the Recreation field have not been pursued. The vandalised trees have not been replaced.