

## **BURLEY PARISH COUNCIL article about tree replacement in *BURLEY VILLAGE MAGAZINE* of February 2018: -**

TREE WORKS AROUND BURLEY At last April's Burley Annual Assembly some concern was expressed by villagers about the extensive felling & lopping that had just been undertaken by the Forestry Commission. This most notably involved mature trees along the verges of Pound Lane, Beechwood Lane & Bisterne Close.

The Parish Council reported that it had held detailed inspections & discussions with the FC about the trees concerned prior to commencement of the works. Consequently, we were able to reassure villagers that the trees concerned really were reaching a dangerously diseased state; thus urgent felling was necessary in a number of cases to reduce the risk of injury to road users. In particular, 4 big trees had had to come down in Pound Lane with the minimum of delay.

Subsequently, we have been informed by the Forestry Commission that further extensive - but less urgent works - are now planned to a lot more trees in the village. These will involve: - 8 trees in Bisterne Close,(2 to be felled); 4 trees in Beechwood Lane; 9 trees in Cott Lane (1 to be felled); 10 trees in Pound Lane (3 to be felled); 2 in Honey Lane; 4 in The Cross. This means substantial works to a total of 37 trees over the next few weeks. Those 6 to be felled are in addition to the 4 already taken down earlier this year in Pound Lane, with more elsewhere.

In a recent round of further on-site discussions, the FC have demonstrated that the latest works to be proposed are indeed necessary soon, but with lopping limited to the minimum extent deemed to be essential; and this time the trees to be felled are basically poorer specimens of little real amenity value. We have now heard that these works should commence on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

However, as indicated in April, Parish Councillors are still concerned to maintain the traditional verdant nature of the village centre; most particularly in Pound Lane to ensure we do not lose its iconic vista as a well-wooded entrance way to the village. This is, of course, within the '*Burley Conservation Area*' and officially classified as part of the Forest's areas of 'Ancient & Ornamental Woodland'.

Increasingly, however, bare stretches can be seen (mainly on the south side) with only grass and brambles withstanding the grazing of ponies & cattle. Consequently, we have pursued discussions with the Forestry Commission for planting replacement trees. Although Natural England prefer to leave such replacement to 'Natural Regeneration', it seems we should indeed be able to get round that policy since such an element of our familiar landscape can be classified as being of 'Cultural Significance' to the life of the village - and maintained as such.

Therefore, with expert input, a plan has now been prepared for agreement with Natural England/the FC to show where protected young saplings (mainly oaks) might best be planted within the open spaces along the south side of Pound Lane between the Village Hall and Honey Lane. That formal agreement is expected soon, and the necessary funding has been identified. So we anticipate being in a position very shortly now to seek confirmation of villagers' support for these proposals to be progressed.

Robert Clarke