

Leek Wootton Focus Group.

22 WALLER CLOSE, LEEK WOOTTON, WARWICK. CV35 7QG
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19 June 2023

The Office of the Police and Crimes Commission

Warwickshire Police

3 Northgate Street

Warwick

Warwickshire CV34 4SP

For the attention of MS Polly Reed

Dear Ms Reed.

Re: Tree removal and Woodland management - Incident at Broadlane Caravans

Following on from our letter to you dated 14th June 2023 relating to a 50 foot tree falling into the rear garden of one of our members on Sunday the 28th May we wish to report a second incident in the East Lunch woodland, south of the stream.

In early May 2023 the Insurance company for Broadlane Caravans assess the property and commented on the proximity of overhanging trees from the East Lunch.

The PCC Estates were contacted and your Estates Manager Shane Wilton visited the site and was looking into the comments made.

Sunday 10th June - a section from a large veteran oak tree on the boundary between the East Lunch and Broadlane Caravans broke off during heavy rain and fell onto four motor homes. The damage was significant. Three vehicles have been written off, the fourth vehicle is being assessed.

The cost is estimated between £150,000 and £200,000.

Monday 11th June - The PCC Estates was contacted later that day Shane Wilton visited the site and commented that he would notify Adrian Gray, the principle of Broadlane caravans, when the PCC's tree surgeon would remove the fallen timber from site.

Friday 16th June - Broadland caravans have organise their own tree, surgeons to come to site to remove the timber. See photographs.



Again we reiterate, in our letter dated 19 June 2022 we set out a list of twelve questions regarding the management of the woodlands on the Woodcote Estate. We have highlighted three questions applicable to this incident with your replies in red.

2 As per our requests on the 31 March 2022, 12 May 2022 and 17 June 2022 can you provide a copy of your woodland management plan for the Woodcote Estate (UKFS) as per the guidelines set out by the Forestry Commission.

A - There is no woodland management plan.

4. Have you carried out a survey and identified the trees to be removed. If so please provide details

A: This information is not held

10 Please provide a record of concerns raised by residents of trees that pose a risk to their property and the action taken or pending.

A: This information is not held, no correspondence has been located.

LWFG - This statement is incorrect. It is incumbent upon you to keep a register of all incidents.

An incident was reported by the Broadlane caravans twelve months ago. A branch from the East Lunch fell onto a motor home causing a few hundred pounds worth of damage. Your officer Shane Warne visited the site and it was decided not to pursue a claim.

11 What future maintenance is planned in the woodland?

A. No answer provided

Regarding Q4Note in your subsequent letter dated 4th May 2023 you attached your contractors tree risk management report dated 1st December 2022.

Having reviewed this report, it would appear that this oak tree, the most significant individual tree in this part of the woodland, was not surveyed. This is extremely worrying.

In our earlier correspondence we suggested that all parties, the WDC, PCC, Parish Council and the LWFG work in unison regarding the identification and survey of ancient and veteran trees on the Estate.

In our Woodlands paths Plan A report issued on the 30th June 2022 (see our website link [Woodland paths Plan A 30 June 2022](#))we commented;

“Where the field and caravan park meet, there tucked away in the corner, hidden from view is a veteran oak tree 280 years old. An accurate measurement of 4.7m of its circumference was obtained on 9 June 2022. Dating from the eighteenth century, this is the most significant individual tree in this part of the woodland and is easily overlooked”

Before any further work takes place on this veteran oak tree could you please notify all parties.

This second incident has again highlighted the lack of woodland management by the PCC.

I welcome your reply.

Yours sincerely

Harry Wilson

On behalf of the Leek Wootton Focus Group

Attached - Tree report 1 December 2022

cc

Mr Adrian Gray - Principle Broadlane Caravans

LWFG - residents & Committee

Leek Wootton Parish Council

Leek Wootton Councillor's - Josh Payne / Pam Redford

WDC - Gary Fisher

WDC - J Hazell - Tree Officer

WCC - Michelle Eaton - Ecologist

CPRE - Mark Sullivan