

## **Allens View – Report to Oct, 2018 Exec. Cottee. Harry Gardiner.**

**New benches – progress;** I emailed Mike Davies and got this reply

“Hello Harry I am a very lucky person. Please find attached a timetable (in Word) for you to view and amend the dates, if for any reason they are not convenient.

If you email me any changes you make I can confirm them before your meeting, or you can present the document as it stands.

Week beginning **10th December 2018:** Send images of progress so far and if necessary arrange a workshop visit

Week beginning **7th January 2019:** Facilitate workshop visit to confirm design fine detail choices prior to welding bench components together

Week beginning **25th February 2019:** Facilitate workshop visit to confirm satisfactory completion of the benches prior to galvanising

Week beginning **18th March 2019:** Deliver and assist in installation of benches

Kind regards Mike

### **Gates**

I met Mr Braun the butcher and he us happy to **make us a set of three gates for Allens View made from the same type of wood** as the two picnic tables over the winter. We will do a site and measuring visit and he seems keen to sort the hinges and fittings. This is a generous offer again. We may need to sand the gates but it seems best to use clear wood preservative to avoid the re-painting that a dark teak preservative involves.

When the time scale is clearer I could approach the National Park path ranger ( new guy) to get their volunteer team to help with installation.

### **Tree Survey**

Safety double checks on trees causing a bit of concern showed; –

**no issues with the crab apple** trees by the upper bench,

**no further main stem rot in the Griselinia** by the viewing cairn ( One branch had broken through basal rot last winter, and some branches were reduced by the tree surgeon over the public area as a precaution.)

**Further monitoring** is needed for a **tall laburnum** with a broken branch cavity in the main stem, a **three-stemmed sycamore near the southern glade, one of whose stems show some shallow decay, so could** sensibly have its longer branches removed by volunteers.

This tree will need removal in the next few years ( noted by surveyor in 2015 ). **A sycamore** by the southern entrance has a basal cavity with fungus ( latter confirmed as non-aggressive by Trevor and the tree surgeon ) This will be monitored to check if the cavity enlarges or deepens. These are common in sound trees, but as it is by the entrance there is safety to consider.....

### **Tree planting**

The tree survey of 2015 recommended planting to replace the group of leylandii after they were felled ( now done with a bird carving, a notice stand and a bench added using the base stems ). This winter/autumn its it recommended to the committee that we plant 4 new saplings, two birches and two Whitebeam, both very suited to a windy site by the sea and not prone to the species specific diseases becoming more common. There is quite a large gap in the canopy so plenty of sky for new trees to aim for. A New Zealand pine donated and planted in this space in 2017 died in the heavy frost and freezing rain last winter.

Three 20 year old oaks ( Donated by Jo amd Malcolm Stacey ) and a willow planted just before the dry period have survived ok, tho Harry had to water them twice a week during the dry period. Saplings trees planted two winters ago have survived well, one or two losses. Alf Heaven had cleared around quite a few and watered them.

## **Future tree work**

There are a few dead smallish branches on Monterey pines that need a tree surgeon's opinion next time one comes, none in high risk areas ( ie over paths )

Two **ash trees** nearish to the southern coast path hedge are very mature and showing some signs of stress but no disease die back. Over the next five years they are candidates for felling ( leaving two big stumps for carvings?? ).

One **Monterey** has a broken off stem but a long branch over the fence into "clovers" land; I intend to mention this to the Arboriculturalist who is happy to correspond on matters.

There could be some felling where there are too many trees interlocking with each other, especially the weaker trees. There are opportunities for volunteers to do similar 'cosmetic' branch lopping at lower levels, as has partly been done this autumn.

**Some tree surgeon work looks likely winter 2019-20, but the arboriculturalists survey of 2015 could be repeated at the date due in 2020, at a cost of £250 - £300 . ( Good value as you get a professional opinion in writing about safety....** And the National Parks Tree Officer would not offer such advice when our tree surgeon brought him up to resolve some uncertainty over the two Ashes above; he only offered concerns. )

**Then there could be tree surgeons bill too....** At the moment there are no large tree work costs 'hanging over us' ( ! ) such as problems with the Monterey groups.

**We seem to need some regular income to give a fund to cover the continuing costs of tree work**, rather than shrink our reserve. We have **done well with free volunteer work and donations** ( benches, saplings, plants, Daffs ) , we have two benches coming, and gates, we **could bid for grants** for equipment, fixtures, tree felling for tree carvings, new shed/rain gatherer, possibly improved vehicle access, maybe tree work to improve views etc. , but the long term need for tree work is less likely to be fundable through a grant for a 'fighting fund'.

## **Autumn Winter planting 2018/19 – species proved to do well there....**

**1 We have an offer to donate the cost of 200 more Tenby Daffs** from Doreen Mortimer.

**2 We have an offer of more primrose and violet plants** from Jo Stacey.

**3 Harry can provide more hardy begonia ground cover** to extend this summer's planting.

**4 Sue Gardiner has a series of hardy fushia plants** being readied for planting by the spring.

**5 other helpers have fushias, hydrangeas, montbretia** for us to plant, the latter need digging up

**6 Other contributions are welcome**, especially perennials, bushes and evergreen bushes that survive near the coast.

**Note that quite large amounts of planting are needed to be at all noticeable in the site !**

## **Paths and planting**

**One aim with introducing planting has been to guide walkers around the path areas and stay off other areas of the site, also creating borders edging the paths.** So paths around the two tree sculptures were created, border planting and some railings guide visitors away from other areas by partly blocking them. There is more to do, but experience is showing what works and what does not.

## **Volunteers**

We have lost several volunteers – Nigel Davies, John Faulkener, Louise Badham. Recently Alf has not been available. We have gained Josh, Trevot Halletts grandson. Trevor cant do work, but has assisted with tree and species assement.

**Species list.** Trevor Hallett has prepared two lists of wild plant species present on Allens View. Harry Gardiner has put this into a spreadsheet list with a few additions. Some garden plants are omitted , so assistance with identifying any on Allens View would be appreciated.