



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Agenda
Item

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Member Question to Environment Committee

Question from Cllr Jim Dewey

I thank Cllr Pickering for answering some of my concerns about Ash Die Back in Stroud and across Gloucestershire. I have seen Gloucester County Council are felling Ash trees along Frocester Hill and elsewhere and understand they are allocating a substantial sum to take down dangerous Ash trees and replanting with other trees.

What steps are Stroud District Council taking to educate, inform and work with other private Landowners to identify any trees at risk and have them removed? One of the obstacles is the cost associated with their removal and the number of trees which are diseased. Do we know how many trees are affected?

What enforcement measures could be considered to ensure any such trees identified are made safe?

This was raised by the Tree Warden at Uley Parish Council Meeting in December 2020 and it seems a valid concern. It could also fit in with our CN2030 Strategy by allowing other trees to be grown in their place which are more resilient and able to cope with the Changing Climate.

There was also an instance of a car being driven in Uley some years ago on Crawley Hill B4066 which was hit by a falling tree and the occupant was killed so this is potentially a real problem.

Reply

In regard to risk management the District Council advises landowners to zone their land into: High, medium, and low risk areas. High risk areas include trees adjacent to highways, and trees within falling distance of infrastructure, or areas of high foot fall. Medium levels of risk are associated with footpaths, and low frequency areas of land populated by the public. Low risk relates to trees in the middle of fields or on land that is not accessible to the public. I am not aware of any statistical data that relates to the number of infected trees within the District.

The County Council can use section: 154 of The Highways Act 1980 to serve notice on landowners to fell trees adjacent to the highway.

The District Council has powers under the Miscellaneous Provisions Act.

The County Council have employed an Ash dieback officer to address this problem.