

Biodiversity Report, October 2020.

1. Ash Dieback

Nationally there is concern that many of the tens of thousands of ash trees affected by this disease will soon be sufficiently weakened to start losing their branches without warning. This will obviously pose a potential problem when weakened trees are next to a road, public footpath or in a residential garden.

Cornwall Council are currently carrying out a survey of all A and B roads in the county to identify trees likely to cause a problem. This of course leaves many hundreds of miles of minor roads where no survey will be undertaken, likewise residential gardens.

Affected trees that are on the public highway are the responsibility of Cornwall Council. However, trees that are not, but overhang roads, are the responsibility of the landowner. Residents are encouraged to contact the landowner in question if they feel they or their property might be in danger.

The main symptoms of the disease to look out for are:

- Leaves: black blotches appear, often at the leaf base and midrib. Affected leaves will wilt
- Stems and branches: lens- or diamond-shaped lesions appear on the bark. These often enlarge to form black, cankerous scars.

Below are links to the Woodland Trust (showing how they manage the disease) and to Cornwall Council, explaining their approach to the disease.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/46523/managing-ash-dieback-on-woodland-trust-sites.pdf>

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/trees-hedges-and-woodland/pests-and-diseases-affecting-trees/ash-dieback/>

2. Wildflowers

The Parish Council has been able to buy a quantity of native wildflower seeds, thanks to the generosity and hard work of Cllr Ellis. Many of you will have spent happy hours scratching your heads during his legendary quiz nights at the former Cardinal's Hatt. The entry fees have all been saved by Cllr Ellis for spending on projects like this to enhance the Parish's biodiversity.

We shall be sowing the seeds on Hatt roundabout during the next two weeks. This will add to the variety of native species already present. The recovery of areas of grassland like that is a gradual process, so please be patient! After all it has suffered years of harsh management, so the recovery will take some time too.

In order to facilitate this regeneration, the roundabout will be mown in the same way as this year with visibility sightlines cut round the circumference and across the north-south and east-west diagonals. The four quadrants left in the middle will be

cut once in March and again in September to allow the flowers to bloom and set seed.

Cllr Malcolm Fletcher
October 2020.