

# MEETING REPORT

**Meeting:** Parks & Open Spaces, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
**Agenda item:** PA23-038  
**Report subject:** Updates & Information  
**Report author:** K Elliott-Turner, Town Clerk

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## Statutory Plant Health Notice

We have received a Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN) issued under Regulation 15 of the Official Controls (Plant Health and Genetically Modified Organisms) (England) Regulations 2019. These Regulations provide the Forestry Commission with the power to serve a Notice on the person(s) responsible for plants and/or trees which we suspect to be infected with any controlled plant pest of which there is danger of its spreading or being spread in Great Britain.

In this instance the enclosed Notice has been sent because plants and/or trees on the premises specified in the Notice are infected, or suspected to be infected, with *Phytophthora ramorum*. This is a harmful organism placed under quarantine which is considered to be at imminent danger of spreading in Great Britain. There is no known cure for the pest and evidence shows that prompt action in reducing levels of infective spores in the environment, by felling or killing infected plants and/or trees, can be effective in reducing its spread.

Section 3 of the Notice identifies the location as Longtimber Wood and gives a site reference, and relates to Larch species.

Section 4 of the Notice advises of the Compliance Date of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and sets out measures we are required to undertake to prevent the spread of the pest.

## Meeting with Woodland Trust and Dartmoor National Park Authority

The Town Clerk and Assistant Clerk have met with David Rickwood (Woodland Trust), Tim Russell (DNPA), Ella Briens (DNPA) and new colleague.

There were discussions around the Miles Without Stiles project, with a possible additional project in the area of the 'beach/bbq'. The Clerk is meeting with Tim Russell to discuss his proposed project, which will be brought back to committee for consideration. The committee may be asked to contribute towards costs, or provide in-kind assistance in the way of Parks Officer support.

Discussions around access to Hall Farm with Woodland Trust.

David Rickwood of the Woodland Trust advised that he may be able to provide support and source funding in regard to our Statutory Plant Health Notice.

It was mentioned signage is quite poor – finger posts only say footpaths, and need more detail. DNPA have an app which shows the location of each finger post and its wording, and will now look at upgrading to increase description.

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## Tree surveys

We are currently seeking quotes to undertake this year's tree survey in our parks and open spaces.

## Filham Park access track

Town Clerk meeting with John Grimes Partnership to discuss a revised tender and works schedule for the access track. All relevant users of Filham Park have been asked for the most suitable times which would cause least inconvenience.