

Barton Fishpond Tree Works



The Parish Council have been working with the Environment Agency to improve the water quality in the pond including reducing the algae growth which discolours the water and has caused the de-oxygenation of the water in the very hot weather leading to fish deaths; most noticeably in the heat waves earlier this summer.

The high levels of algae are caused by the nutrient enrichment of the water due to breakdown of the large amount of leaves that fall into the pond each autumn, especially from the trees at the margins along the Efflinch Lane side.

The Parish Council have agreed a management plan with the Environment Agency's Fisheries Officer to significantly reduce the nutrient enrichment and Tree Surgeons will carry out pollarding and coppicing of the Willow and Alder trees along the edge of the pond **this week**; before the school terms starts, and to prevent this years 'crop' of leaves falling in the water and increasing the existing problem.

'Pollarding' means reducing the canopies of trees to a smaller number of stems between 2-3m high.

'Coppicing' means reducing the trees to around 1m above ground level.

In both cases these trees will naturally re-grow from the cut points; and afterwards the Parish Council will carry out further selective pruning over the years to manage the trees so that extent of the tree canopies is kept smaller than in the past. It will also mean there is more of a mix of age groups so not all the trees are pruned at the same time in future.

There are also some dying Alder trees on the Potters Way side of the pond which will be felled to ground level as they are potentially dangerous. These may re-sprout from the stumps and any regrowth will be managed in the same way as on the Efflinch Lane side.

Works are programmed for this Thursday and Friday 27 & 28 August and there will be no access or fishing along the Efflinch Lane side of the pond on those days whilst the work is under way.

Please respect the warning signs and barriers that will be in place for your safety.

For more information on the Fishpond Management Plan and EA Fisheries reports please visit the PC's website:

https://www.bartonunderneedwood-pc.gov.uk/Fish_Pond_30586.aspx

Or contact: clerk@bartonunderneedwood-pc.gov.uk Tel: 01283 716059