

Tree report

Tree at 7 Heol Glynderwen Neath SA10 7RR

28/6/2022

This is a mature Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) of some 45 + years old, the over all condition is very good a healthy distribution of leaves and no noticeable die back (see photo 1/2), the crown is well balanced and uniform, the main concern is the three brackets which have been screwed to the main trunk.(see photo 3/4) The owner is concerned this will be a risk. Although not a ideal situation

there is no sign of infections or bleeding, the brackets are slowly being occluded into the trunk, I recommend cutting off as flush to the trunk as possible and allow the tree to deal with them naturally, any attempt to remove them would possibly cause more damage than leaving them in place. Trees can often be seen with metal protruding nails wire even metal posts especially trees in hedgerows.

Aside the metal brackets the trunk looks healthy and even, with a nice taper into the crown with no scarring or cavity, a few small staples are also in the trunk these should be removed, will not cause any harm to the tree.

There is some root rise but this is even around the base and is more from root expansion than any root heave due to wind. As this tree is now under a TPO all work will need appropriate approval from the issuing authority, the tree does not present any major risk to the owners property as such, the neighbour is concerned that the tree may fall and damage there property, the risk is low and any damage will be to out buildings and possibly the conservatory for that it may result in a broken gutter and a pain of glass, my estimate is only the very top twigs and small branches would strike the conservatory at this time.

Options

1. removal of the tree to remove all risk now and in the future as this tree will continue to grow
2. pollarding this will require removal of all growth back to the main trunk, although it can be done with sycamores , it may be too late for a tree of this age, the shock could kill the tree. This if done and the tree survives it would require the pruning to be done every year or two, as once a tree has had this treatment, it will continue to need work done until the tree dies.
3. Cruch pruning and reduction/ thinning , with some careful reduction pruning the height and size can be reduced, by 25 % or 45% this will reduce the wind effect and greatly remove the risk to the adjacent properties, this work will need to be done by a qualified Arborist tree surgeon so as to keep the damage to as little as possible, with correct target cuts as per Alex Shigo to ensure good healing,(spikes should not be used in climbing)
4. No action, although this tree is now in good health. It will need to be checked at regular intervals, and as said before the tree will become larger and as such become more of a risk. If no work is done to lower this risk now it may result in more drastic work in future even felling. At this time the tree is coping with the wind but the ground behind is lower is worked as arable land and so roots will not be able to spread into the field and be as supportive. So allowing the tree to grow bigger may be the worse than careful and selective pruning. The tree will need to be visually checked for any change in condition by the owner each spring/ summer.

Note as this tree is under a TPO all works not approved and allowed which result in the tree falling and damaging the adjacent properties will mean the issuing authority becomes liable to compensate the owners under the town and country planning act 1971 section 174

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