

7. Identification of Tree and Description of Works

The Yew tree is currently quite unbalanced, having been pruned on the west side but not the other sides, so in order to improve its appearance, it needs to be pruned about 1.5m on the north, south and east sides and about 0.5m on the west side.

The tree is causing severe problems to no. 76, and is preventing reasonable enjoyment of the property, due to:

- 1 Almost all light is taken away from the rooms on the east side of the house, and the interior lights have to be left on all day.
- 2 The pine needles, which are very poisonous, form a thick carpet on the path immediately outside the kitchen of no. 76. This has to be swept frequently to avoid being carried into the house, and probably fills several dustbins each year. The needles also block the gutters and drains and affect the draining of the thatched roof. This shortens the life of the thatch, leading to high maintenance costs.
- 3 Birds roost in the branches overhanging the path, leading to very obnoxious, thick and foul-smelling droppings, particularly at certain times of the year.
- 4 The needles falling around the tree have raised the ground level by about 1m over the last 35 years. This, along with the pressure from the tree itself, has caused the 2.7m high wall adjacent to the tree to lean. The lean has been monitored for several years, and it will probably fall within the next 10 years. If it falls suddenly, it will certainly kill any person or animal that happens to be beneath it.

If the tree is pruned back to the wall line (as it has been in recent years) then this will minimise the problems, although the lean of the wall will have to be addressed in the near future.

Previous advice received

On 30 August 2019 I wrote to Mark Warwick, Tree Officer at ADC (letter attached) and subsequently had a telephone conversation with him. In the conversation, he said that he would not object to a removal of 0.5m on the west side and 1.5m on the other sides, but that he would prefer the height to be left as it is. Consequently, this application follows his advice.

Extracts from a Surveyor's Report, November 2019, JP Tupper Associates

These comments, regarding the boundary wall between numbers 76 and 78 North Bersted Street are taken from the Surveyor's Report:

- "The wall in question is no longer upright, and has developed a distinct "lean" in towards the side of No 76."
- "...the head of the wall is leaning in... by some 226mm out of the perpendicular".
- "There are substantial vertical cracks in the wall".
- "It is considered that the lean of the flint wall is generally due to root growth from the Yew tree, which is a very substantial tree in close proximity to the wall".