

Tree type: Prunus Domestica Bullace or Mirabelle.

The nature of this particular species and its ability to cross with wild cherry and greengage, make it difficult to pin the exact variety.

I believe it to be Bullace although the fruit is unusually sweet, but too red to be Mirabelle. It has huge benefits to wildlife.

However, the older trunks and branches are showing signs of distress in deep cracks in the bark, probably due to drought.

The trees' ability to access enough good soil and water to maintain its existing height and increasing height from new growth is doubtful.

This is due to its roots being encased on one side by the public highway and footpath, and the gravel drive and buildings on the other. It is this fragile growth that is causing the following concerns.

- **A:** The trees height over the building-line and inaccessibility in the future to prune that growth, without difficulties or damage to the roof is of concern. Pruning now to avoid this issue would be effective.
- **B:** The cars parked under the trees, are subject to the threat of failing fragile branches, in windy or extreme weather.
- **C:** The same weather conditions would cause debris from the tree to fall on to public highway and footpath, blocking traffic, or causing an accident.
- **D:** The property has an oak gate way which possibly was once the entrance through a boundary wall, it is preserved and maintained as an historic feature of the property. The tree is now resting heavy boughs on this gate frame, which are forking away from the main trunk. The gate frame and gate are sinking into the ground and beginning to rot under the weight and pressure.

Plan to remedy the issues and improve the trees health.

To keep the tree healthy the plan is to reduce the tree to Two metres, using the new shoots to train the tree along the fence line. Creating a flowering fruiting boundary fence.

We would put in an irrigation tube so that in dry weather the tree could be watered deep into its roots to maintain its health.

This would work with the nature of the tree, which is inclined to put out left/ right, right angle shoots. These widely spaced branches are ideal for healthy fruit, but less ideal when growing into footpath which is narrow.

This tree would normally be found growing in hedgerows and cut back hard to maintain a mixed thick wall of foliage supporting wildlife.

By retraining the tree fully, we can stop the tree becoming a hazard, and avoid damage, insurance issues and traffic delays.

The fruit is currently too high to thin out or pick, without putting a ladder on the footpath.

This risk is easily remedied by reducing the canopy, treating the tree as a horizontally trained fruit tree, along the length of the boundary at a maximum of two metres high.

Aesthetically

The attractive blossoms and fruit would benefit the appearance of the parish as well reinvigorate a tree that has still much to offer the community and aide preservation of the oak gate.