



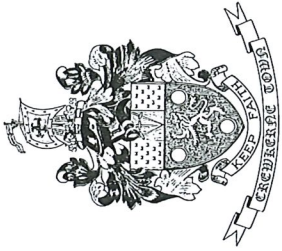
Dear Town Clerk, Mr Mayor, and Councillors.

On Thursday 23rd December 2021, in the hedge bordering the Yarlington Housing Bungalows, at Barn Crescent, and Barn Street Recreation Ground, 4 large Trees were cut down by contractors with a large tractor and trailer.

As Crewkerne Council Tax payer's we wish to know, under the freedom of information act, the answers to the following questions please;

1. Who owns the hedgerow between the Yarlington Bungalows no's 28-33 Barn Crescent and Barn Street Recreation Ground?
2. Why were these trees cut down? See photos above.
3. If the hedgerow belongs to the Town Council, at which Town Council meeting was there a discussion on cutting down the trees, and when was the decision made, and at what cost to the rate payers?
4. If the hedgerow belongs to Yarlington Housing and no discussion was held at a Town Council meeting when was a decision made to cut down the trees. Who gave permission, at an Amenities or Full Town Council meeting, for the contractors, with their large heavy tractor and trailer, to access the Recreation Ground and drive across the field? The Council Groundsmen were working at the Tower Hill Road end of the Recreation Ground, and had unlocked the gate.
5. At the recent "Shared View" event at Barn Street Recreation Ground. A question was asked of Councillors, Mayor Kathy Head and Alice Samuel, why were these trees cut down? The Councillors had NO knowledge or idea why and seemed surprised that they were gone!

Thanking you for your help, and we look forward to your written reply.



CREWKERNE TOWN COUNCIL

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15th March 2022

Freedom of Information request: Ash trees at Barn Street Recreation Ground

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 21st February 2022 regarding tree works carried out at Barn Street Recreation Ground. Please find below in italics the responses to the questions you have asked.

1. Who owns the hedgerow between Yarlington bungalows nos. 28-33 Barn Crescent and Barn Street Recreation Ground?

The Town Council's understanding is that this hedgerow is in Town Council ownership.

2. Why were these trees cut down?

An inspection carried out by the Town Council's arborist in June 2021 identified that these trees had ash dieback disease, works were scheduled on safety grounds. They have been ground-coppiced to encourage regrowth and strengthen the stems following weaknesses which have emerged as the trees have not been coppiced for approximately 30 years.

3. If the hedgerow belongs to the Town Council, at which Town Council meeting was there a discussion on cutting down the trees, and when was the decision made, and at what cost to the taxpayers?

The works were quoted at £780+ VAT. The decision was authorised by the previous Town Clerk under delegated powers in July 2021.

4. If the hedgerow belongs to Yarlington Housing and no discussion was held at a Town Council meeting, who gave permission at an Amenities or Full Town Council meeting, for the contractors, with their large heavy tractor and trailer, to access the Recreation Ground and drive across the field?

It is not usual procedure for contractor access to be decided or discussed as an agenda item.

5. As point five is not a request for information, your comments have been noted.

This request and the Council's response will be published on the Town Council website as part of the usual procedures for Freedom of Information requests.

Yours sincerely

Katharine Sheehan
Town Clerk

cc. Cllr Head, Mayor of Crewkerne and all Town Councillors via email.