

The Corners
Church Road
Copthorne
West Sussex RH10 3RD

1st November 2024

Attn. of Leanne Bannister, Acting RFO
Worth Parish Council
The Hub
Borers Arms Road
Copthorne
West Sussex RH10 3ZQ

Dear Leanne,

Dying mature Lime Tree in the vicinity of Church Road

Thank you for your letter (copy attached) which Chris in The Lindens forwarded to us, as we are the owners of the tree identified.

We confirm that the tree has been monitored since we came to Church Road 46 years ago, its decay coming to the fore this summer. Professional safety advice will be sought and appropriate action taken.

The tree is the subject of a TPO placed on it when we submitted tree management proposals to Mid Sussex Council about 35 years ago, with a view to maintaining the amenity value of the avenue of trees for as long as possible. However, a then Parish Councillor objected to the Tree Surgeons' proposal, so we left the avenue of lime trees of mixed age and success to grow unmanaged.

We believe the tree concerned self-seeded in the late 1880's (self-seeded because, as a Garden House for village landowner Mary Maynard, all the other 22+ trees planted in her landscaping were small evergreens). The other Lime trees were added in two phases much later to form the avenue to the property's former rear gate which once emerged opposite Church Lane. The Parish Council planted the additional Lime trees on the Green, which have gradually withdrawn water and light from the older avenue, although one or two were vandalised and not replaced. Perhaps we could re-plant, to maintain the balance.

I will let Worth Parish Council know what is proposed (although you will of course receive official notification/representation from the District Council's Tree Officer).

Kind regards,
Chris

