



**SHEET PARISH COUNCIL**

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5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**SHEET'S HORSE CHESTNUT TREE**

Very sadly old age has caught up with our iconic Horse Chestnut tree which was planted on the Village Green in 1899.

Sheet Parish Council has had the tree professionally surveyed by an Arboricultural Consultant in 2014, 2020 and this year in June. Amongst other diseases (Leaf Miner, Bleeding Canker etc.) it has been apparent that the Ganoderma Fungus infestation has been progressive. This is a disease that particularly affects older trees and that weakens the trunk.

Following this June's survey, we had already planned to carry out the recommended canopy reduction of 4 meters all over and 5 meters on the weak NE aspect. We were in the process of arranging for this work to take place when fate took a hand, and the gale (Antoni) of the 5/6<sup>th</sup> August caused a vertical split in the tree's trunk. Emergency tree surgery was carried out on 8<sup>th</sup> August to stabilise the tree temporarily.

Following further advice from our Arboricultural Consultant we intend now to have a more radical crown/canopy reduction in the hope of prolonging the tree's life and making it safe to use the Village Green again.

Whilst this will be a shock to many people, we must all realise that our once magnificent 18-meter-tall specimen will never look the same again. Indeed, it may not survive this action, only time will tell - but we felt we ought to give it a chance as the only alternative is to have it felled completely.

We plan to have this work carried out on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September** and will need access all around the green that day from 8.15 a.m.

Whilst every care will be taken, this is a major operation and the safety of vehicles left parked around the Village Green cannot be guaranteed - co-operation from those who normally park cars their cars there would be greatly appreciated.

**Sheet Parish Council**