

DITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Incorporating the Hamlet of Capton and the Manors of Bozomzeal and Coombe

02/03/2022

Residents' Feedback received to date:

Agenda Item 2 March 2022: Trees & Footpath - Riverside Road

To respond to Devon County Council regarding planting two trees on DCC verge south side Riverside Road and preferred management of five areas where pavement trees have died.

Information Email Group Email 22/2/22

Dear Residents

Devon County Council has asked the Parish Council's view on two things.

This is an Agenda item on Wednesday 2 March and you may wish to express a view?

DCC has identified room to plant two trees on the verge on the south side of Riverside Road just above Ham Lane.

What trees would be preferred?

A suggestion from DCC is Dittisham Plums.

Regarding the footpath on the opposite side of the road. DCC counted five square areas of soil where pavement trees have died.

DCC has asked whether the preference to manage these areas is:

- a. Plant Trees - DCC is using trees with bags to contain the roots in that type of location- options on the type of tree available pending.
- b. Tarmac- Alternatively DCC could request that the areas are tarmaced over.

	Footpath	Verge
By phone	Plant trees – take all opportunities to plant Eg flowering cherries same as further down Riverside Road Mountain ash In both cases choose to provide food for birds	Plums create mess if not picked. Rowan / mountain ash White hornbeam Berries, widely used streets and gardens White or red May (blackthorn)
By email	much as we love the ornamental trees [] they do compromise the footpath for buggies, walking frames etc. so will go with Option B to tarmac the squares	the whole grass verge needs tidying up and vehicles deterred from parking on it. Dittisham Plum trees are a good option as long as they are robust enough; other small trees may be worth considering.
By email	I suggest tarmac over as trees get in the way of walking along the path	Plum trees good
	Because I doubt they will be well maintained I suggest old roots be removed, and the paving reinstated	Would prefer cherry trees to Ditsum plums that often have poor shape
By email	we would strongly recommend that these are tarmaced over to make it possible for people, buggies and possibly wheelchairs to get along the pavement and not have to walk in the road.	It seems a very suitable choice to plant 2 Dittisham Plum trees on the verge near Ham Lane. In order to give the trees the best growing environment it would be necessary for DCC to

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		clear the undergrowth and find some way to stop parking on the verge which would damage newly planted trees. As residents of Riverside Road we have frequently requested that something should be done to make this verge less of an eyesore and all the DCC trees growing on the verge need care and attention. It would give us and others great pleasure if DCC would look into doing something about this.
By email	...our preference is 'Option B'. Given the increased use of the road for parking and the likelihood of further building works, it is important that there is at least one footpath, free of obstructions, for pedestrians.	Our view is that the priority for DCC should be the proper maintenance of the trees already along the south side of Riverside Road and the establishment of a grass verge in keeping with the grass verges outside 'Lavenders' and the houses on the south side of Riverside Road below Ham Lane. This will require signs preventing the parking of boat trailers, tractors and abandoned vans on the verge. Dittisham Plum trees have a place in the village but we do not think 2 trees on the verge are likely to prosper. Our experience has been that 'Dittisham Plums' are very prone to disease.
By email	I am the owner of Merrion opposite the slip road to the Ham. ... Secondly , trees on the concrete squares along the road . Having lived there for nearly 20 years I have seen many visitors to the village complaining about not being able to get buggies , wheelchairs past the trees that were previously there . Once again I would oppose a large growing tree right outside my house and anything with any width makes it difficult for pedestrians . Once again it seems a needless thing to do .	..firstly trees adjacent to the slip road . I have no objection if they are low growing trees that are able to be pruned however I think it is a needless thing to do as there are trees either side of the slip road and the natural wild area won't benefit from trees
By email	With regards to the footpath on the opposite side Option B would be our preference so that people are encouraged to use that side of the road and in a safe way too.	Although some replacements of sorts would be lovely we feel that the current trees get no care and attention as it is and so planting anything further would mean more trees getting out of hand. Fruit trees need an annual trim and this would need to be done to keep the tree in a healthy state. It would be nice for the current trees to have a prune and for the verges to be tidied and kerbed in some form that looks natural first before anything further is planted. Some of the trees are in a terrible state with ivy growing

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		up them which is slowly killing them and some branches reaching way over half the road. These need attention first.
By email	With regard to the five square areas on the North side of Riverside Road we feel Option B, to tarmac the squares, is the best option for the safety of pedestrians.	In addition, as far as the verge on the south side of the road is concerned, it would be a great improvement if this area could be cleared of undergrowth, tree stumps, and fallen branches. Rather than planting Plum or any other tree which would need to be maintained, we feel it would be better to tidy up the area with a grass verge and a kerb to prevent parking on the grass verge. In our opinion there is no need to plant more trees. However, if trees are decided upon, Cherry would be our preference matching those in front of Shimmerings.
By email	We agree that the spaces in the pavement should be filled in and made level.	Could the edge of the bank be clearly defined at the edge of the concrete road - with a ridge or stones? Could the bank be tidied - the trees & bushes pruned and planted with attractive ground-cover & bulbs? When new trees are planted - we suggest non-deciduous trees eg. Rowans that produce bright berries. {further comment on management of the verge in detailed email]