

(taken from an e-mail from LMN Tree and Hedge Care – 19th December 2017)

I'm very pleased with the condition of all the trees now they've had a thorough crown clean / deadwood...my only concern lies with the horse chestnut, we are all aware that I dealt with a rip out in the summer, on carrying out my climbing inspection another large limb had ripped out and was laying in the top...Casting your mind back to when it was in full leaf there were multiple pieces in the top that were looking worse for wear, my initial response was to leave it alone and assess its condition after the growing season to see if any dormant bud growth was to form as a reaction to the die back.

The report made observations of "bleeding canker" and "questioned its long term survival" I would have to say after my climbing of the tree yesterday I would have to agree with those observations and update on its current health status.

I've attached a few pics of newly forming velvet shank fungi (flammulina velutipes) its a Saprotroph (grows on the deadwood of mainly broadleaf trees, horsechestnut). This was found in a few spots on reasonable sized limbs throughout the crown.

I had a brief discussion first thing with Bob Mckelvey as he passed, to convey my overall concerns with the tree and potential action required (this was based on standing on the ground assessing), he was very supportive in my opinion and believed the council would agree too.

Now as mentioned above after climbing the tree I've been able to give a more accurate assessment of its vigour as I've seen up close what its condition is like.

I feel it's in a poor state and die back into the crown and fruiting bodies only confirm that the tree is struggling.

I followed the instructions and recommendations given in the report to "Deadwood" the crown, which has been done, as this is what had been quoted for along with the other trees on the green. I believe further work and a decision needs to be made on more extensive work to the horse chestnut.

- Heavy crown reduction back to a small healthy structure, new growth can form a balanced healthy crown (Never 100% guarantee)
- Complete removal and replant.

As you can imagine I certainly didn't want to make that decision and have tried to leave the tree as safe as possible...aesthetically it's a little misshapen and unbalanced hence the detailed email about its future is vitally important.

Please could all relevant details be passed onto the council members, I'm happy to assist in any future works where required. I await your feedback.

Regards,

Stuart



