

**Statement of events on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2016 reference land / vegetation management works on land adjoining the South-Westerly side of 73 Linthurst Newtown, Blackwell B60 1BS**

Statement by: Mr Gavin Boyes, Senior Tree Officer, Bromsgrove & Redditch Councils

- We received an enquiry recorded on M3 reference number 201628462 on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2016 from a concerned local resident of Linthurst Newtown reporting that a digger was working on land to the side of 73 Linthurst Newtown. The reporting resident was concerned that work may be being carried out to clear the land ready for development.
- Having checked the status of the land it was clear that there were no active TPO or conservation area restrictions on the site but it was under Green Belt designation.
- I therefore visited the site to investigate what work was being carried out, arriving at the site at approximately 11am on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2016. I found a single workman on a small tracked 360 degree turn digger spreading type one grade road stone on a gateway entrance to the land immediately adjoining the South-Westerly side of the drive way serving 73 Linthurst Newtown. In addition to this work there was evidence of other work having taken place in light shrub and small tree clearance within the main body of the land immediately beyond the gated entrance to the field. This also appeared to be very recent and most likely undertaken that morning.
- On approaching the digger driver to gain information on the level and reason for the work he informed me that he was carrying out the work on behalf of the owner of 73 Linthurst Newtown who he advised was at home. I knocked on the door of this property with but no response came. The digger driver then phoned the resident on his mobile phone who then came out of the property to discuss the works.
- The owner was a Mr Fell who advised me he was only carrying out some work, partly to improve the entrance area to the field but mainly to improve the access to the driveway of 73 Linthurst Newtown as his wife particularly had found the entrance very tight to access and with low visibility when exiting the property. He indicated that the level of work intend was that which had been already carried out and was near to completion.
- This seemed a perfectly plausible explanation for this work and the level of work carried out had not had any detrimental influence on the major tree stock in area so the appeared no reason to pursue the matter further at that time.
- On return to the office I raised M3 enquiry number 201628462 to record my finding on site. Also as I was due to be on leave for the following two weeks I made my colleagues in the tree team aware of the enquiry and results of my site visit in case any additional issues may arise.