**TREE WARDEN REPORT: May 2025**

**for LITTLE COMPTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

At the risk of repetition, please note that there is a requirement for all landowners who own trees alongside highways, footpaths or any area where the public are allowed to roam to understand the legal requirement of ‘Duty of Care’.

Generally speaking, trees growing on grass verges are the responsibility of the Highways Dept; trees growing in hedges that mark landowners’ boundaries alongside highways are the responsibility of the landowner or their agent/tenant.

Little Compton Parish boundaries host potentially dangerous roadside trees and these are owned by third parties, all landowners would need to be notified as and when action is necessary to make all trees safe; it might only be a question of removing a dangerous limb or other failing part, cutting back hedges that are encroaching over the road or it might be necessary to fell a dead/dying/dangerous tree.

Parish Councils have a duty of care to carry out a VTI (visual tree inspection) and should continue to produce a current H&S report or update any old tree inspection to cover all trees for which they are responsible and identify any trees of concern that are owned by third parties.

Following my general VTI inspection, the only trees that is the responsibility of LCPC are the ones in and around the cemetery. I will continue to monitor these and report accordingly as and when necessary.

There are a few issues within the village with overhanging branches and general overgrowth encroaching over footpaths. Landowners responsible for the other potentially dangerous trees within the parish should be notified to give them chance to carry out their own inspections.

As tree warden and qualified arborist, I am happy to carry out a more detailed VTI, but I cannot stray on to private ground without the landowners’ permission. Any report, where requested, would always consider the sensitivity and aesthetic of the village and its surrounds.

There is still a scheme in place where tree wardens who can request certain native trees from the Tree Warden Scheme for planting in and around their parish as long as they are planted alongside a public right of way. So, if the Parish Council would like any for the next planting season, please let me know.

Mike Hartnell, MDH Forestry Services Ltd