

Swarland Village Action Group Committee:

Chairman: Neil Mansfield, Secretary / Editor: Bryan Stanley,
Treasurer: Susan Richardson.
Committee Members: Robert & Sue Brotherton, John Richardson,
Suzanne Stanley, Caroline Thomas.

Write it Down Now !!!

Please supply information to the Editor for
inclusion in the October issue by
Thursday 27th September 2018.



The cost of production of this issue of

The Column has been met by

**Newton on the Moor
& Swarland Parish Council**
and
Swarland Club

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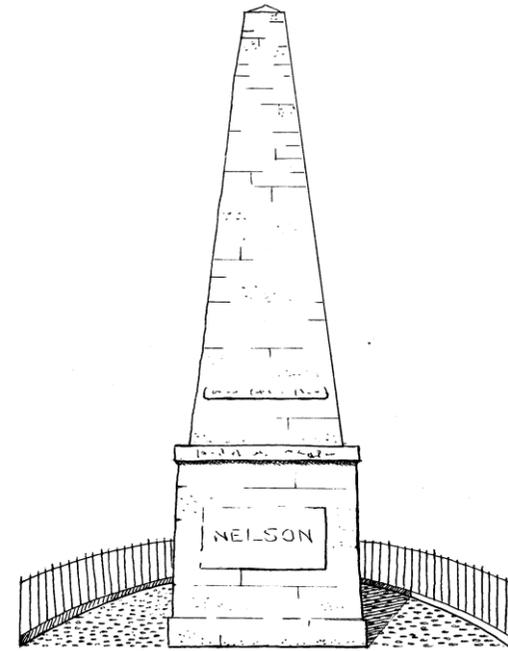
**SWARLAND VILLAGE
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Swarland Club is pleased to sponsor *The Column*.

The Column



August 2018

Produced by

Swarland Village Action

Newsletter 96

**New blood is needed for Swarland
Village Hall – to help SVH see inside.**

Welcome to your latest issue of **The Column** and if you're new to the area, welcome to you too. If you wish to put something into the next issue **please supply it for inclusion in the October issue by Thursday 27th September. Send it to: The Editor, Bryan Stanley, on 01670 787 916 or by email at maxitoby1@gmail.com .**

Swarland Village Action

Sale of Golf Balls

Golfers please note that golf balls are available at the excellent price of **20p** each. **Please knock at No.5 The Square, Swarland.** Proceeds go towards SVA-related community projects.

Swarland Moor Local Heritage Group

Our speaker in June was Mr Cliff Pettit who gave us a most interesting talk about the Alnwick Camp and its occupants during the years of the First World War. We were all amazed that 6,000 men were billeted on the small market town and that so many from the Alnwick Camp lost their lives when they moved on to France.

Towards the end of July there was a visit to Bywell Hall and Churches and to Cherryburn, birthplace of Thomas Bewick. The trip was interesting but very tiring due to the oppressive weather. Bywell proved to be an unexpected gem, a lovely stately family home with beautiful and priceless artefacts. The wonderful portraits of Lord Allendale's family told a colourful story. The two Saxon churches close by were also fascinating, especially the thirteenth century coffin covers now mounted on the wall. After a very good lunch, Cherryburn was a delightful ending to the day. Following an excellent talk and a most interesting printing demonstration plus visit to the actual Bewick birthplace, many enjoyed a cup of tea looking out over the Tyne valley.

Our first meeting of the Autumn will be on Tuesday 11th September when Mr Phil Huntley will talk to us about Newton on the Moor and its past industries.

We meet at 7.30pm in the Village Club and I am delighted to be able to say that membership and entrance fees will remain the same for this year as last. That is £10 / person for the year to hear the 8 speakers. Whilst we always look forward to new members, if you just want to come and hear a particular talk or speaker, you are also most welcome and the fee for individual talks will remain at £2.50 / person.

Our talks this year are very varied and most are locally based. Everything from glassmaking to digging up the past in Felton and Thirston. Do please look out for the posters advertising each one.

Please do look out for the SMLHG stand at the Swarland Show On 1st September. David Plumpton has been very busy mounting a photographic exhibition which I think you will find very interesting. My heartfelt thanks go to David for undertaking this project.

I look forward to seeing you in September and please refer any queries to me on 01670 787 121.

Caroline Thomas

Neighbourhood Watch Update July - August

Swarland / Longframlington. Nothing to report from April - July 2018.

If residents have information on any crime, please report this via the following numbers: Emergency issues 999, non emergency issues Tel. 101. To contact Rothbury Police, e-mail alnwick.npt.northumbria.pnn.police.uk , phone 101 ext 61353, or call in at the office on Front Street, Rothbury. If the office is unattended please use the yellow phone on the wall and an officer will be able to assist with your enquiry.

*NW Co-ordinator, Harold Hinchliffe, 2 Nile Drive, Swarland.
Tel.01670 783 669 or Mob.07713 097 250*

RVI Cancer Appeal at Swarland Club

The community is still showing great support for the Cancer Appeal. I'm sure there are a lot more milk bottle and other plastic tops out there which could earn money for this good cause.

At present NCC does not offer us any way to recycle the sort of plastic bottle

tops we get on our milk bottles which have the recycling symbol  . Currently these have to go in our green land-fill bins. Why not save on land-fill **AND** help add to the funds of a very worthwhile cause. Clean plastic bottle tops can be left in the container on the bar in Swarland Club. **Periodically these go to the RVI to help raise funds for its Cancer Appeal.**

Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels!

During May / June in conjunction with RSNE, we have again conducted our Annual Survey within Swarland Woods, to monitor and log the Squirrel population in our area.

Unfortunately the results have not brought good news as only Greys have been observed at our feeding station, although some sightings of Reds have still been observed in the area. This survey now highlights even more, the need to control the ever-growing population of Greys. With this in mind, the group would greatly appreciate any new local volunteers to help our cause to return the Swarland area to the Red Squirrel stronghold it was in past years. Our Website (lcreds.org) and Facebook page (Squirrels in Coquetdale) have loads of relevant information and you can log on to report sightings etc. **We also hope to have a presence at Swarland Show again.**

Finally once again our grateful thanks to Arthur Scott, without whose help and knowledge of Swarland Wood we could not have conducted our survey. Thank you,

Keith Walker, on behalf of Lower Coquetdale Red Squirrels

**Deadline for items for the October issue of
The Column: Thursday 27th September 2018.**

Recycling Corner

Why not recycle your unwanted items through The Column? Recipients of free items are asked to make a small donation towards this newsletter's running costs. Items for sale? – If successful, the seller is asked to make a small donation towards our running costs.

If you would like up to 3 x 5-foot circular tables with wooden tops and fold-up metal legs, contact Neil Mansfield on 01670 787 184 or neil.mansfield5822@btinternet.com for more information.

Swarland Village Hall Activities

It has been confirmed that, even though the timbers had been treated, **the Hall is suffering from a woodworm outbreak under the stage area. This means that the Hall will be out of action during August, and possibly into the start of September to allow remedial work and further treatment to be carried out.** Some regular activities may continue in neighbouring Halls – for details contact the relevant group leader.

Run as a community charity (Reg. No 1058471) the Hall offers seating space for up to 120 people, a stage with lighting and a modern sound system (plus hearing loop), kitchen and toilets. Its PRS Licence means hirers can legitimately use music at their events.

If you wish to book the Hall for a group or private event use **please contact Bryan Stanley**, see details elsewhere. Current activities in the Hall include:

Archery Practice after the end of March there may be occasional summer sessions. Taster sessions, beginners' course and coaching are available at very reasonable costs. The Club can supply all equipment. Contact Steve Woolfrey on Family.Woolfrey@outlook.com or 01670 787 883 for details.

Karate Classes on **Tuesdays 5.30 - 8.30pm**. Contact Gary Davidson on 07930 838 872.

Qi Gong (Chinese Energy Exercise) Class on **Wednesdays 10 - 11am**. £3.50 per session. For details contact Anne Raine on 07934 425 844.

Swarland Craft Group Closed in July & August. Normally on **Wednesdays 1.30 – 3.30pm**. New members always welcome. For further details ring Margaret on 01670 787 705 or Joyce on 01670 787 855. N.B. No meetings in August.

Swarland Carpet Bowls on **Thursday evenings from 7pm**. Late August till March. New members are always welcome. If you would like to give it a try, just come along. For more information, contact Joan Nesbit on 01670 783 145.

Thanks must be publicly given to **Arthur Scott, Dave Chambers** and **Jack Dobson** for all the work they have done for SVH over many years. As they have retired / are moving away from Swarland we are looking for new blood to join the team looking after SVH for the community. If you'd like to know how you can help please contact **Bryan Stanley** maxitoby1@gmail.com.

NotM & Swarland Parish Council

The Parish Council (PC) met on 27th June and 25th July. Ivor Jones, who resigned in June, was thanked for his efforts. The three vacancies have now been filled by co-option, so the PC is at last at its full complement of 10, and would like to welcome on board Liz Clark (from Hazon), Karen Howard-Row (from NotM) and Andy Ferguson (from Swarland).

Local Transport Plan (LTP) Priorities for 2019 / 20

Each year Northumberland County Council (NCC) requests Town and Parish Councils to submit their three priorities for highway improvements, for possible inclusion in the LTP. In 2018 / 19 this parish was advised that two of its three priorities would be included:

- i. Package of road safety measures around Swarland 1st School.
- ii. Extension of the existing footpath which runs along The Avenue, to The Square, Swarland.

The third priority, asking for the introduction of a 30mph speed limit in Old Swarland, was rejected because the 'scheme doesn't score well against LTP criteria and 30mph not appropriate due to lack of development.' Nevertheless, our parish has done well from NCC Highways this year. NotM now has new speed limits, road resurfacing has been done in Coast View and Kenmore Road, and Leamington Lane is soon to be repaired and surface-dressed.

We are inviting suggestions from local residents to help inform our three parish priorities for the 2019 / 2020 LTP. Please can you send these to the Clerk, by **5pm on Sunday 19th August**.

NCC Local Plan Consultation

Under consultation at present is the NCC Local Plan - a vitally important and influential document for the whole county - which includes all of the main planning policies for the county, and maps out where new homes will be built, new jobs created and new services provided. Public consultation on this full draft plan runs for 6 weeks - from Wednesday 4th July to Wednesday 15th August - so although time is short you can still view the document and make your comments via the NCC website at: <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-policy/Plan.aspx> . In our response, we are likely to welcome the proposed settlement boundary for Swarland.

Next meeting

This will be at 7pm on Wednesday 22nd August, again at the Jubilee Hall, NotM, due to some planned flooring works at Swarland. As always, members of the public are welcome to attend and ask questions before the meeting starts.

If you have comments or queries, please contact the Parish Clerk – Jan Anderson on 01665 575 145 or janandersonpc@gmail.com .



Swarland Primary School Code Club

The Code Club attached to the Swarland Primary School has now completed its first year. We have had virtually the same group of children throughout the year and they have progressed from novices to quite competent coders as well as being able to create and control basic electronic circuitry using the Python coding language. I am really proud of them all.

This term we have been using the Raspberry Pi micro computers and a variety of sensors to create little experiments; after half-term we concentrated on making robot vehicle kits which could be controlled by a wireless joystick controller or be free running using a proximity sensor to sense obstacles and make the robot back away and turn through 90 degrees. However, this latter robot didn't perform as well as hoped, because the tyres didn't get a good grip on the carpet and slipped on a smooth surface. We will have to think of something better for the next course. The Code Club will start again in September with a new group of children; we are limited to 10 children aged 8+ years.

I want to create a weather station at the school controlled by a Raspberry Pi, which will collect readings continuously and download them to the Pi network server. The data would be available for analysis by any of the classes and could be incorporated into science, maths and environmental lessons. I would hope that the children from classes 5 and 6 would be able to assist with the building, siting and coding of the station and be responsible for checking that the data is being collected correctly. There is no reason why such a project would not remain collecting data for years to come. However, I have to source funding of £400+ to be able to make this work, so if anyone knows of a likely benefactor(s), could they please get in touch with the School or me.

I have been very fortunate to have had the assistance of Phil Raine this year, but unfortunately, Phil will not be able to help next year due to other commitments. Thank you Phil for your help and support this year, we very much appreciated it. Of course this means that I now, more than ever, need someone else to come forward to offer assistance to the Code Club on Tuesdays for an hour after school. You really need minimal knowledge initially, just be willing to have a go at the project before the class each week.

If you think you may be able to help, please get in touch with me for a chat.

I hope you all have a good summer break.

Roger Brunning, Code Club volunteer (roger@the-brunnings.co.uk or 01670 787 506)



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Show Piece

Plans are shaping up nicely for this year's Show which takes place on **Saturday 1st September in Vyner Park from 12 - 4**. The schedules for the show tent classes are available through Nelsons, the Village Club and from members of the team. There is also an electronic copy available through messaging our Facebook page or by request from Alison Cowen at clancowen@outlook.com.

Once again we've pulled out all the stops to offer a good range of entertainment and many of the activities on offer, such as bouncy castle and bungee trampoline, are free after paying £3 for entry. We have birds of prey, Alnwick Playhouse band and a Companion Dog Show as well as Archery and Classic Cars.

Please support this community event by coming along on the day (off-street parking will be available) and / or by buying a raffle ticket for all the prizes generously donated by local people & businesses.

Enquiries or for more information contact **Sue – see below**.

Chairman, Sue Brotherton, on 01670 787 078.

Mobile Library Dates

The NCC mobile library comes to the parish every other **Wednesday**. It stops in **Swarland** opposite **The Square from 10.00 - 11.00am** and in **Newton on the Moor from 11.10 - 11.30am**. If you miss these it's also in **Guyzance** from 11.40am – 12.00 and **Old Felton** from 12.15 – 12.35pm.

The next few dates are: **1st, 15th and 29th August, 12th & 26th September and 9th & 23rd October**. If you value this service - "Use it or lose it".

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Wasps and other insects.

Contact Rory Brotherton
01670 788 174 or 07769 176 666



Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor

The **August Coffee Morning** will be held on **Saturday 11th August**; weather permitting we shall be able to enjoy coffee and a chat outside in the sun. In **September** we shall be open for coffee and excellent cakes as usual on **Saturday 8th**.

Carpet Bowls continue on Tuesday evenings and new members are always welcome. Contact John on 07717 700 011 for further details.

Church Services are held on the third Sunday of each month at 12 noon.

MUSIC ON THE MOOR

The Jubilee Hall will be hosting a series of concerts throughout the winter, under the title **MUSIC ON THE MOOR**. We begin with an evening of medieval music and madrigals on **Saturday 6th October**, followed by a Northumbrian evening on **Saturday 3rd November**. Our ever-popular Christmas Concert will be on **Saturday 1st December** and two further concerts are scheduled for the **Spring of 2019**.

Prices and further details will be announced shortly and a season ticket will be available to cover the entire season. We hope that the **MUSIC ON THE MOOR** season will become a most enjoyable regular fixture.

To book the Hall please phone **Liz on 01665 575 680**. We offer the use of the delightful Grade II listed Reading Room for small meetings, lunches or parties, or the main hall with a larger capacity and staging as required. A small bar can be provided by arrangement with the Trustees.

Alison Gallico, Jubilee Hall Secretary.

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Swarland Primary School - School Games Silver Award



I am delighted to inform you that Swarland Primary School has just achieved the **School Games Silver Award**.



The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Felton Surgery Summer News

Staffing Changes: In June we said goodbye to two members of our team. Janet Turnbull, one of our Reception team has retired and Dr Richardson has moved to take up a new position in Sunderland. We wish them both all the very best for the future.

We also have two new members in our team. Elaine Connelly has joined as our Dispenser / Receptionist and we will be welcoming Dr Kibirige to our clinical team in August.

Appointments: As you are aware we have been using the Dr First system at Felton for more than 18 months and it is also increasingly being used by other practices in Northumberland.

We have been able to significantly increase the number of patients our Doctors consult with on a daily basis since implementing the new system, increasing your accessibility to a Doctor each day.

Please let us reassure you that when you speak with a Doctor on the telephone should you require a Face-to-Face appointment this will be booked with you by the Doctor you are speaking with.

Patient Satisfaction: We welcome all feedback from our patients and would appreciate your thoughts. There are forms in Reception which ask a number of questions about our surgery which can be filled in anonymously and left in the collection box in Reception.

We will review all responses with a view to improving the service we give.

Shingles vaccinations available:

The Shingles vaccination is available to all eligible patients throughout the year. Please book your appointment at Reception.

(cont)

Who is eligible? Patients aged 70, plus anyone in their 70's who was born after 1st September 1942. Patients remain eligible up until their 80th birthday.

Test Results: Please allow 7 – 10 working days for all test results to be available. It's not normal practice for the surgery to contact you regarding your results unless the Doctor wishes to discuss them with you. In these instances our reception team will call you to advise you of this. Our Reception team is unable to discuss clinical detail with you, therefore if you wish to speak in detail about any results we kindly ask that you ring to make a Dr first appointment.

Samples as Requested: We will provide you with the correct sample containers from Reception once you have spoken with a Doctor or Nurse. We will ensure that the requests have been added to your records and all relevant paperwork has been completed before issuing a collection container. We do not hand out sample pots without details from a Doctor.

Patient Participation Group: We currently have a Patient Participation Group (PPG) at our practice. The group meets quarterly with the practice staff. If you have any issues you would like to be discussed at this meeting or would be interested in joining, please inform either the practice reception staff or patient members of the group. PPG can be contacted through the Surgery or alternatively at the following: feltonsurgeryppg@gmail.co.uk .

Repeat Prescriptions: Please remember you need to allow a minimum of **two full working days** between ordering and needing to collect your repeat medication. This gives us time to check and dispense your medication safely. **Please ring after 11am for repeat prescriptions. We now also offer the facility to place your repeat prescriptions online; to do this please ask one of the Reception team to set up a personal log-in procedure for you.**

We aim to provide the highest quality service to the community we care about.

Contact the practice by phone on 01670 787 353 or visit our website for further information at www.feltonsurgery.nhs.uk .

Swarland Ukulele Group

Swarland Ukulele group had its first session at Swarland Village Working Men's Club on Thursday 5th July at 7.00pm. 10 local novice players turned up and started their musical journey with the Ukulele. Thanks to all concerned for their support especially Swarland Working Men's Club for the use of the Concert Room which was much appreciated and also the RVS for the loan of Ukuleles and learning material.

For further details please contact me, Barry White, on 01670 787 654 or email barrymwhite@outlook.com .

Vyner Park Update

Bonfire Night is in hand - put **Friday 2nd November** in your diaries now. We've had our first planning meeting, the fireworks will be ordered any time now, and we're expecting the usual great night out for the family with fireworks, the bonfire and plenty of food and drink.

Football: The new goalposts had their official launch on Saturday 21st July when Sam Palin (Swarland resident and manager of Amble St Cuthbert Football Club) held a friendly match to raise money for the Stephen Carey Fund. The pitch might not yet be perfect, but as a marked pitch with decent goalposts was a huge improvement on last year!

The Defibrillator on the south wall of the Pavilion was supplied by the Stephen Carey Fund. To access it in an emergency, dial 999 to be given the keypad code. Once you've opened the door, clear instructions are given on how to use the equipment – you do not need to be trained in its use.

Dogs: On a more mundane note a reminder to all dog-owners not to put dog waste in the bin next to the playground; use the bin by the recycling bins or one of the red dog bins elsewhere. You'll see that, thanks to Andy Ferguson, there are now bag dispensers on-site. Please use the bags and dispose of them responsibly.

VPC Management Team

From the Archive – The Column, August 2008

The Swarland Square Improvements [was it only 10 years ago?]

By the time you read this, Phase 2 will be completed with the addition of the traffic-bearing path to the central area and the semi-circular area with the surrounding bollards. This is the start for Phase 3, i.e. the elevated flower beds incorporating the etched bricks (see order details elsewhere) and a paved area down to the main road.

With regard to peoples' requests for the etched bricks, I received a letter from a lady in Lerwick in the Shetland Isles asking for more details. I duly wrote back and received an order for four bricks with a cheque and instructions to put any surplus into our funds. To keep her in the picture, SVA will send her each copy of The Column.

Finally, I would like to make a request to the people visiting the Post Office in their cars. It would be appreciated if cars are not parked on the pedestrian area in front of the Shop, albeit it has to be crossed when exiting The Square. Please continue to enter The Square on the left side of the newly paved area and exit on the right. Thank you for your help.

John Taylor, Chairman of SVA

[John Taylor and his wife Alyne moved to Cambridgeshire some years ago, but we were very grateful 10 years ago for all the effort he put into overseeing the refurbishment of The Square. Ed.]

Please retain for reference

Trees and the risk to human safety

On the basis that there are so many protected (TPO'd) trees in the Parish, particularly in Swarland, and in the light of concerns shown by a number of residents about damage caused to trees in the gale on 14th June, the Parish Council wants to provide as much information as possible about tree management. We've therefore asked the County Tree Officer to visit the Parish in the near future to offer advice, and we've also asked Nigel Chopping, a local arboricultural consultant, to offer advice for your information. He writes:

Trees provide benefits on a local, regional and global scale. They sequester carbon, provide valuable ecological habitats, enhance amenity and have a positive effect on our mental health. On a suburban level, tree crowns reduce wind speeds which, in turn, help reduce heat loss in buildings, as well as intercepting rainfall and alleviating local flooding. Studies have also shown that urban environments with trees retain higher comparative property values than those with fewer trees. It can therefore be stated with certainty that trees provide a wide variety of benefits.

Trees are dynamic living structures that continually change. Like us, they grow old, become ill, vigour declines and they die. Some tree species are also genetically predisposed to inherent weaknesses. As a result, they can shed limbs and fail. If we are to continue to harness the benefits of trees, a balanced approach must be taken to tree management regarding risk of failure. Understanding the risks and taking proportionate action is key. Knowing what to look out for, and when to act, is invaluable.

The National Tree Safety Group (NTSG – www.ntsgroup.org.uk) provides some interesting statistics in this respect. The chance of a member of public being killed by a falling tree (or part of a tree) is about a 1 in 10 million in any given year. The number of non-fatal injuries that are attributed to a person being struck by trees is about 55 per year. To provide comparison, the annual risk of death from a road accident is 1 in 16,800 and A&E statistics reveal that on average 2,200 people a year are subject to injury involving wheelie bins (yes, wheelie bins!).

Whilst the risk is described by NTSG as “*exceedingly small*”, and noted by the Health and Safety Executive as generally being “*broadly acceptable*”, the effects of tree failure can be severe. It is, therefore, wholly understandable that tree failure is unlikely to be perceived locally as an insignificant event. The adverse weather conditions and tree failures we witnessed in June certainly brought these very issues

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to mind and surely left many wondering what they should do.

A prudent approach by a domestic homeowner is to, once a year, check their trees. Signs to look out for:

- A large branch or whole tree that is dead
- Shedding branches
- Bark falling away from the tree stem or main branches
- Mushroom or fungal structures growing on and around the tree
- Decay cavities, cracks in the stem, forks, or branches
- Movement in the ground around the tree

So, in summary, the risk posed by trees to our safety is low, but it is important to act where a tree displays signs of a potential problem.

If you have identified a concern, it is advisable to contact a tree surgeon or arboricultural consultant. A tree surgeon will help you to determine what works may be required (if any), provide some basic advice and quote for any potential work. However, where issues relate to tree health, safety, statutory protection, buildings or planning law, it may be more appropriate to gain a specialist opinion from an arboricultural consultant.

One way of finding a reputable contactor or consultant is by word of mouth and it is always advisable to contact more than one. Many local authorities hold lists of reputable companies and provide guidance, as do industry bodies (e.g. Arboricultural Association or the International Society of Arboriculture). Whichever route is chosen, look for evidence of qualifications and ask for insurance details. Any reputable company would be pleased to provide this information.

Finally, always check with the Local Planning Authority, Northumberland County Council, to ascertain whether a tree is protected. It is an offence to cut down, uproot, prune, damage or destroy protected trees. If a protected tree does require work, you will need to submit a planning application to NCC. When determining applications for consent, NCC may refuse consent, grant consent unconditionally, or grant consent subject to conditions. Such a condition may be a requirement for replacement tree planting with a tree of appropriate species to be undertaken within a fixed period. It is essential that advice is sought from a tree surgeon or consultant before taking any action on a protected tree.

If you would like to know more about trees or this article, please contact Nigel Chopping, *Tilia Tree Consultancy Services* on 07462 033 438.

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