

Felling of 5 Poplars in Park opposite St Werburghs Nursery.

My complaint is on the following grounds:

1. These were 30+ ft trees. The loss of wildlife habitat is contrary to BCC policies on conservation and sustainability.
2. No notice was given, let alone consultation. These trees were not, given their position, a risk or a danger to the public. BCC policy on Community involvement has been ignored.
3. The reasons given for their felling were (apparently)
 - a. Risk of subsidence
 - b. cost of maintenance
 - c. disease.

I obviously can't comment on the latter, but the first two, if taken to their logical extremes, would be grounds for chopping down every mature tree in the city.

There is at present a countrywide reassessment of risk methodology following nationwide outcry over this loss of mature trees, and as a result of London court cases. BCC must take notice of this. In this particular case the responsible Arboricultural officer appears to have overlooked the fact that the neighbouring houses have stood for 120 years and the trees for at least 30.

In short, there is a perception around Bristol that the Tree officers are arrogant vandals intent on felling mature trees to save money on maintenance, and living in fear of insurance claims. While I'm sure this isn't the case, this example does nothing to dispel this impression.