

## **Copper Beech Tree – Felling notice**

**The Parish Council is saddened to announce that the much loved copper beech tree by the cemetery gate will have to be felled due to its diseased condition.**

The Council has been monitoring this tree for some time due to its diseased condition. Last year in order to make an informed decision about the trees safety it commissioned an internal scan. This showed internal damage from a fungal disease *Kretzschmaria deusta* (previously named *Ustulina deusta*) and recommended further monitoring and retesting.

This disease commonly known as brittle cinder, causes a soft rot and decays the trunk and/or roots of living trees. Badly infected trees can be prone to sudden catastrophic failure with little outward sign of disease.

SLDC's arboricultural officer visited the Cemetery on the 21<sup>st</sup> August and inspected the tree. He warned the Parish Council that the crown of the tree is showing signs of decline in the form of increased deadwood throughout the crown and advised that he would immediately schedule its removal if it belonged to SLDC.

The Parish Council has a duty of care for users of the Cemetery and the adjacent highway. The tree presents a risk of harm to both, and the presence of this decay fungi increases that risk, with little possibility of sufficiently reducing the risk to a level that is acceptable..

It was therefore with regret and having carefully considered available information that at its meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> September that the Parish Council Resolved that the tree should be felled without further delay.

Felling works are due to begin shortly after the 12<sup>th</sup> October during which time there will be restricted access to the cemetery and temporary traffic control lights on Silverdale Rd.

To maintain the natural beauty of the cemetery the Parish Council has already planted a young copper beech tree in the Cemetery and at the same meeting resolved to plant another three young trees in the upcoming months.

Anne-Marie Cade

Clerk to Arnside Parish Council

01-10-2018