
Councillor Report

Report on Boundary Hedge Between Valley View Properties and Jubilee Park

2 minute read

Date of meeting: Wednesday, 23 September 2026

Subject: Boundary hedge between Valley View properties and Jubilee Park

1.0 Background

A meeting was held with Graham Crabb on Wednesday, 23 September 2026, to discuss the condition and future management of the boundary hedge between the Valley View properties and Jubilee Park.

2.0 Condition of the Laurel Hedge

Graham advised that the Laurel hedge has become excessively high and overgrown. The internal branches have developed to such a size that they can no longer be effectively managed using a conventional hedge cutter.

It was suggested that the Laurel hedge could be substantially reduced to approximately 2–3 feet in height. This would allow the hedge to regenerate with fresh growth and, over time, become more manageable.

However, due to the size and thickness of the internal branches, significant cutting back would require the use of a chainsaw. This work is beyond Graham's current capabilities and, therefore, it was recommended that a qualified tree surgeon or suitably experienced contractor be engaged to undertake the work safely.

3.0 Condition of the Leylandii

The Leylandii section of the boundary hedge was also assessed.

Graham advised that this section has become too large to be effectively reduced. Unlike some other hedging species, Leylandii will not reliably regenerate green growth from the older brown, woody interior once it has been cut back beyond the green growth.

A section of the Leylandii has also collapsed internally and, in Graham's view, is unlikely to be capable of being restored to a satisfactory condition.

4.0 Proposed Replacement

Given the condition of the Leylandii, the suggested approach would be to remove the existing Leylandii hedge completely and replace it with a new hedge.

Consideration could be given to using more suitable and manageable species, rather than replacing the Laurel or Leylandii with similar evergreen hedging.

4.1 Potential options discussed include:

- Beech
- Hornbeam
- A mixed native hedge, incorporating a variety of suitable native species
- A mixed native hedge could provide greater biodiversity and wildlife value while also creating an attractive and more sustainable boundary.

5.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Parish Council consider obtaining quotations from qualified tree surgeons or suitably experienced contractors for:

- The reduction and management of the existing Laurel hedge.
- The removal of the existing Leylandii hedge, including the collapsed section.
- The supply and planting of a suitable replacement hedge.
- Ongoing maintenance requirements for the proposed new hedge.
- Further consideration should also be given to the most appropriate replacement species, taking into account long-term maintenance, height, appearance, biodiversity and the suitability of the hedge to its location.

6.0 Conclusion

The existing boundary hedge has become substantially overgrown and parts are no longer realistically manageable through routine hedge cutting. Professional advice is therefore recommended before any significant work is undertaken.

The Laurel may be capable of being rejuvenated through substantial reduction, whereas the Leylandii is considered unsuitable for further reduction and would be better replaced.

A new native or mixed-species hedge could provide a more manageable and environmentally beneficial long-term boundary for Jubilee Park.

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