

Newsletter 2 – 23 September 2020

- Two mature trees in the Donkey Field owned by Eton College were felled over the weekend and contractors are on site doing further clearance work. One of the trees was the large oak adjacent to the footpath behind No.51 Solent View Road. Enquiry as been made to Eton College concerning the felling.
- Steps to obtain a TPO on the felled oak had been initiated but were not acted on in time by the Council. We are seeking to obtain TPO protection for other trees in the field but are unable to say whether we will be in time (assuming Eton plans to remove them).
- 51 Solent View Road (which is one of the two houses between which the bridleway at the top of the Donkey field runs) has been purchased by a company in Sandown. Access to the Donkey Field is a key issue highlighted in the assessment of the site as developable .
- No planning application has yet been made.
- In 2008 a number of neighbours banded together to commission and submit a report* prepared by Planning Consultants setting out in detail why the field were unsuitable for development. The report was re-submitted to the Council planning department in 2015 and again at the beginning of 2019 in response to the publishing of the Draft Island Development Plan and the chief planner responded to say that, where relevant, the report would be taken into account in the formulation of the plan. We are yet to see what effect it will have.
- The Parish Council is opposed to any development of the fields and its 2017 planning strategy denotes the two fields as an open space.
- We are in the process of writing to Bob Seely, MP, to enlist his support.

** The report is available on this web site via a link in the 'Protecting the Donkey Field since 2008' page*