

Posted to Facebook 28 November 2017

**Lime Trees at the War Memorial next to Saint Mary Magdalen church,
Billericay High Street.**

Hi everyone.

Back in October, when the Lime tree situated in the War Memorial was first pollarded (for Health and Safety reasons) I commented on this page that it might be necessary, at some point in the future, to remove this tree.

Unfortunately, this tree (affectionately known as 'Mr Stumpy') has been diagnosed with 'Kretzschmaria Deusta' (this is a fungus which causes severe decay and brittleness and means the tree is likely to fall down at any moment). Basildon Borough Council have given permission/notice for this tree to be felled as a matter of urgency.

I am currently moving forward on this with the Parochial Church Council, Chelmsford Diocese and the Billericay Town Council and I expect the necessary paperwork to be in place in the next 7 to 10 days.

In the meantime, the Town Council are making arrangements for the Christmas lights on Mr Stumpy to be removed. Because of this, you might want - sooner rather than later - to take a selfie / photo of Mr Stumpy for your memory box, or even give it a hug, before a much loved feature of our community is removed, permanently, from the skyline.

Thank you for your understanding.

Revd Paul A. Carr

Team Rector
Billericay & Little Burstead Team Ministry

Posted to Facebook 30 November 2017

Hi everyone, I've enjoyed reading the comments on this post - there is a lot of understanding and humour around. Well done! Unfortunately, an SOS (Save Our Stumpy) Campaign will have no influence, I'm afraid.

I've just been informed by Billericay Town Council that the lights on Mr Stumpy will be removed sometime this evening. With regards to a replacement tree, nothing has been discussed about this as the felling of the tree was an urgent matter to attend to.

I know the Town Council have plans to improve the War Memorial ahead of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One in 2018 and were going to be working around the tree. However, the fact that that it will now be removed would, I expect, impact their plans and present an opportunity for a re-think. However, this is a matter for the Town Council not the church. Although the trees and the War Memorial are on church land, the Town Council have responsibility for the upkeep and management of the War Memorial and the church the trees. The other Lime tree is not diseased.

I hope this helps to answer some of the questions asked. I'll post on here when I/we know Mr Stumpy is to be felled - but it won't be before the Christmas Market on Sunday - so that is your opportunity for your candlelit vigil in Mr Stumpy's memory.