

To the Chairman and Members of
The South East Area Committee

**Health & Safety Issue – Proposed Felling of Trees in Dangerous Condition
Donnybrook Graveyard**

Introduction and Existing Conditions

A mature tree fell in Donnybrook Graveyard in February 2020 and damaged the boundary wall and some grave memorials. Following the loss of this storm damaged tree, we commissioned an independent tree survey of all the site's trees. The report records 28 no. living trees (2 in good condition, 20 in fair condition and 6 in poor condition). The most significant trees on this site are the three yew trees, a rare elm tree and a veteran sycamore tree.

Pertinent to this presentation, the report finds that one of the (un-numbered) trees is dead, one trees (numbered 707) is classed as the worst grade quality and five other tree are graded at the third worst grade of the four level grade system. These trees are summarised in the table below.

Extract of Relevant Information from the Arboricultural Assessment (Tree survey)	
DRAFT	
by J M McCONVILLE + ASSOCIATES, June 2020	
Tree No.	Tree Species – Common Name (& Latin Name)
700	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)
702	Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)
707	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> 'var.')
N/A	Un-numbered Dead Tree
711	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)
716	Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
717	Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)

Proposal

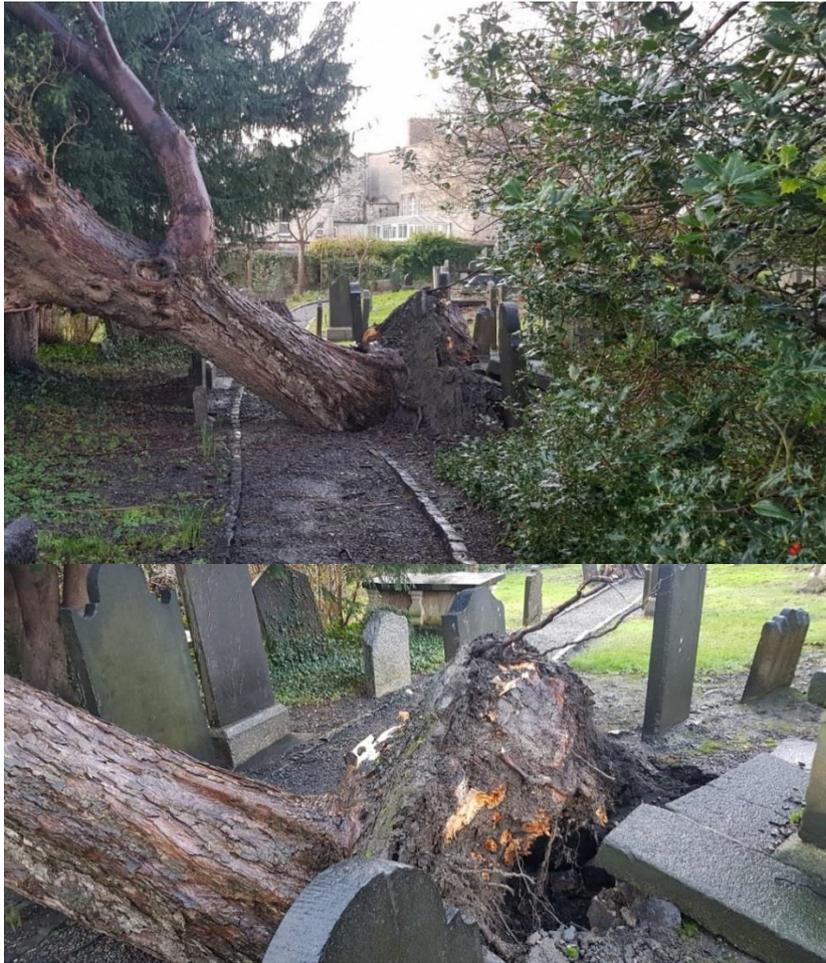
These identified trees could become a health and safety issue and also damage head stones and/or the boundary wall if they fall or if limbs fall. Therefore as part of normal tree maintenance, we recommend that we remove these trees as soon as it is possible, during the 2021 Quarter 1 winter/dormant season, to avoid any potential disturbance during the next nesting season.

It is proposed to remove the 6 no. (low quality) trees and 1 no. dead tree.

Long-term Proposal

During the survey several significant trees were identified by the arborist; three Irish Yew trees (*Taxus baccata* Fastigiata), a rare specimen of Elm tree (*Ulmus glabra* 'camperdown') and a veteran sycamore tree (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). A specific management plan is being drawn up for these trees which will entail some specialist work.

All retained trees will have necessary remedial tree surgery to ensure there are no hazard branches, deadwood and weak limbs. All retained trees will be subject to regular inspections.



These photographs were taken in February 2020, after a mature tree fell and damaged adjacent grave memorials. This tree was subsequently removed and the memorial damage was repaired.

Christina Todd
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