

Ash Dieback Dangers.

Following the recent sudden collapse of a mature ash tree onto the road near Bicton, Botus Fleming Parish Council (BFPC) would like to draw the attention of all landowners in the Parish, and whose properties border the public highway, to their responsibilities regarding diseased trees on their land.

The ash tree in question was almost certainly extensively infected with ash dieback disease. It was growing on the verge of the road. This makes it the responsibility of Cornwall Council. The issue has been reported to the Council given that there are several more trees similarly infected along that stretch of verge which will have to be felled and removed by them. **It is important to emphasize that Cornwall Council is only responsible for trees growing on public land owned by them, including roadside verges.**

A brief visual inspection along the lanes in the Parish would suggest that there are several more ash trees bordering the lanes that are similarly infected and could pose a risk to passing motorists and pedestrians. They are likely to fall without any prior warning. BFPC does not have the powers to instruct landowners to remove these trees. However, we feel that we should advise them of their responsibilities. They are solely responsible for trees on their land and for any damage or injury caused to members of the public or their property. **Cornwall Council has discretionary powers to deal with privately owned trees that pose a threat to a public right of way or highway. Cornwall Council will seek to recover the costs of any works from the landowner.**

Advice on how to identify diseased trees and how to manage them can be found on Cornwall Council's website:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/trees-hedges-and-woodlands/tree-and-woodland-management/your-responsibility-as-a-landowner>

