



Environment & Amenity Committee – 3 March 2015

Agenda Item EA1117/15

Spindle Tree – Croxley Guild of Sport

Introduction

On the perimeter of the CGGOS playing field, close to the path that leads to the school, there is a large bush/small tree that has been identified as a Spindle Tree. As far as known, it is the only one in Croxley Green. The Spindle Tree, (*Euonymus europaea*) is a deciduous tree native to the UK. The leaves are eaten by caterpillars of a number of moths, including the magpie, spindle ermine, scorched carpet and a variety of micro moths, as well as the holly blue butterfly. The leaves also attract aphids and therefore their predators, including hoverflies, ladybirds and lacewings, as well as the house sparrow and other species of bird.

The flowers are a rich source of nectar and pollen for insects, particularly the St Mark's fly.

Spindle timber is creamy white, hard and dense. In the past it was used to make 'spindles' for spinning and holding wool (hence its name), as well as skewers, toothpicks, pegs and knitting needles.

Discussion Narrative

Councillors may know that there has been some discussion that TRDC may take back the perimeter of the field from the GOS. Equally, it is understood that the school is keen to use the new gate to gain direct access on to the GOS perimeter path. Coupled together it seems highly plausible that TRDC (or a duly deputised body) may clear the land between the perimeter footpath and the school boundary fence and thus endanger the Spindle Tree. TRDC tree officers have been contacted re the idea of placing a TPO on the tree but were, we understand, reluctant to do so although no good reason was given for this decision. However it seems plausible that the reluctance may indicate that clearance of the area is planned. Accordingly, to preserve the life of the tree we feel that action from the CGPC is required as it would be shameful to lose this tree due to lack of action by the CGPC.

Recommendation(s)

- *That the matter is discussed within the E&A committee and if in agreement, Mr Clerk is asked to write to TRDC and formally request, on behalf of the CGPC that a TPO is put on the tree or that good reason is given for declining.*

Proposed: Cllr Dudley Edmunds
Seconded: Cllr Dr Leighton Dann