Sefton Parish Church

Sefton

Liverpool

L29 7WG

22nd September 2020

**Beeches at Sefton St Helens Parish Church, Lunt Road, L29 7WG**

With reference to my site visit to Sefton Parish Church and our meeting there to discuss the Beech tree adjacent to Sefton Mill Lane. I inspected all of the Beech trees as you instructed, and I have described below my findings on the trees.

The Beech tree adjacent to the car park is in a mortality spiral and will continue to deteriorate in condition. The tree should be felled as soon as possible to prevent large branch loss occurring. The stump of the tree could be retained and sculpted to form a new feature in the graveyard if desired. I have appended a photograph of the tree for reference.

At the western end of the graveyard is an Elm which has succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease. This tree should also be felled to ground level.

There are seven trees that line Sefton Mill Lane with an average stem diameter

between 1100mm and an average height of 22m. The trees are of two distinctive age ranges, the five trees from the lychgate going south towards Bridges Lane are mature trees likely to be in the second half of their life spans which in Beech can be in excess of 300 years. The two trees nearest Bridges Lane are significantly younger and are likely to be less than 100 years old.

The five trees nearest the lychgate have been pollarded in the past at around 3m height. The re-growth has completely occluded the old pollard points and the trees have re-formed substantial new crowns of good physical form and appearance. These 5 trees also have a large number of old name carvings made into the bark of the trees which have also occluded well.

It is my professional opinion that the remaining trees are in reasonable condition and that no works are required to maintain them at this time. I also do not foresee any requirement for major works except for those previously noted in the next 5 years.

I would however draw your attention to the relationship between the trees and the cemetery wall. At present no outward signs of movement being caused by natural incremental growth of the trees stem and rooting masses was noted. This may in time change however as the trees continue to grow and I would suggest casual observation of the wall nearest the trees in the coming years.

I trust this serves to cover the points we discussed on site. If I can be of further service to yourselves, please advise.

Yours sincerely

A L Smith M Arb CEnv MICFor F Arbor A

Chartered Arboriculturist