

## Recommendations for tree related work

Recommendations have been rated to guide management.

<b>Priority one</b>	Urgent - to do now
<b>Priority two</b>	Needs to be done, but not urgently
<b>Priority three</b>	To do if funds permit

At Letton no trees were found that needed urgent attention - dead, dying or diseased to a point where they could be dangerous.

### Priority two

- Remove the grass cuttings and compost from the base of the yew tree, no. six. Nutrient build up of this level is not good for trees, and more importantly the build up of vegetation prohibits oxygen getting to the roots of the tree, thus causing dieback. Place the compost bins (which are a fine and tidy idea) well away from any trees if possible. They obscure a fine tree.
- It is recommended that the PCC budget for a two yearly check of the trees, for their health, vigour, and safety, for example if limbs have died, but become stuck in the crown of a tree. Useful addresses are found at the end of this report.
- Ivy covers many of the trunks. Since these are vigorous, healthy trees this does not need to be cut back at present, and in fact is a very valuable plant for fauna, providing food and shelter. However, if an inspection was made the ivy could be assessed. It can become a problem to a tree if it starts to dominate the crown, thus cutting out the light to the leaves and making the tree top heavy. Cut through ivy at the base only when necessary.

### Priority three

At Letton there is potential to make some positive changes. The council may wish to consider the following recommendations made with the aim of improving the churchyard for its wildlife and amenity value.

- Remove of the Lawson cypress and the small holly on the East boundary. (Recommendations usually focus on how to preserve trees rather than remove them!) The argument for this bold action is that these are not a native species, and not normally associated with churchyards. Neither are they serving much purpose for screening or shelter, (though local residents may have a fuller story). Most importantly, all of them, especially the holly are beginning to obscure gravestones and make walking around the churchyard more difficult, as they have to be skirted. They are badly shading the ground; compromising the ground flora in the churchyard. By taking these trees out there is an opportunity to develop a circular walk