



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date: 6 January 2011**

### **VICTORIA PARK – HORSE CHESTNUT TREE**

Newbury Town Council has been closely monitoring the condition of the large horse chestnut tree adjacent to the canal and boating pond in Victoria Park. The tree has a high environmental value, but more recently the tree has succumbed to black slime flux that is indicative of bacterial canker (*Pseudomonas* sp), decay fungi (*Polyporus Squamosus*) and the chestnut scale insect *Pulvinaria* sp. There are also a number of main branches that are dead, posing a health and safety threat should they break off with little or no warning.

The Town Council has carried out an independent tree survey and sought expert opinion from the West Berkshire District Council tree officer. That research has led to the sad but necessary conclusion that in the interest of public safety it is better to fell the tree and replant with a new tree. The Town Council is also arranging to have a bat survey carried out on the tree before felling. If bats are found to be present they can be relocated to a safe location by a licensed bat handler.

The area around the tree is a high risk area because of the high numbers of the public using the area as pedestrians, cyclists and for boat mooring. The area has been taped off to ensure public safety until the tree can be felled.

Newbury Town Council hopes to have the works completed by end January 2011.

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#### **Notes to editors / Contact details:**

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