

Meeting took place on 26 July 2021 between Carly Kisanga, Luther Kisanga, Chris Wallis (Arboricultural Consultant) and Julie Hughes (Watford Borough Council Tree Officer).

The meeting followed the recent hazardous and dangerous limb failure on T309 on 20 July 2021. It was noted that at the point of failure, a decay channel was visible but would not have been visible prior to the failure.

The local knowledge concerning the area in the immediate vicinity of the T309, shows that there have been two major issues with neighbouring poplar trees. The first poplar tree (which had been to the right of T309), completely failed, collapsing into a neighbour's garden. The second poplar tree (which had been to the left of T309 and under order T308) was removed at the end of 2019 due to dangerous leaning.

The loss of companion shelter has heavily affected the viability of the remaining tree (T309). Additionally, there is a high target area for T309, with at least four homes within the falling distance of the tree. Furthermore, the scar resulting from the limb failure to T309 has left an open wound with exposed sap wood - this large entry point increases the risk of further decay issues. In the circumstances, further investigations would not be proportionate and further limb failure is very likely.

Removal of T309 was agreed at the meeting, and that following removal of the tree and stump, a replacement tree will be planted - a more suitable residential garden species of deciduous growth habit.