

BROS NEWSLETTER

October 2011 Number 116

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1 BROS Meeting

The BROS meeting took place at 3pm On Thursday 15th September 2011 at the Lou Paradou Club. About 50 members were in attendance. The time of the meeting was changed to facilitate the Environmental Services staff from the Mairie of Le Muy who made a presentation at 3.45pm regarding the Red Zone and the need for clearance on undergrowth [broussaillage] and pruning of trees.

Auriol Langen and Alexandra Lewis-Smith of the BA of the Var also attended to sell cards and calendars.

The two Mairie staff used a power point display for their presentation. Pam Kilbey kindly translated and Alastair Topham filmed the proceeding which it is hoped can be put on to the dcanebieres.com web site.

The presentation started with a picture of a property where the owner had cleared the ground around the property. The property was safe from fire as the fire was unable to reach it. There was another picture of a property where the owner failed to clear the ground as he had been instructed to do and the property was destroyed by the fire.

The details of the fire around Canebieres since 1985 were then displayed. Apart from this year there had been a fire every year.

At Vidauban in 2003 in six hours the fire spread 25 kms, 8000 people were evacuated, 10 homes and 40 caravans were destroyed.

It is difficult to do evacuations which the Mairie is required to do. The risk of fire should be limited so as to protect your family with a break in the ground cover and pruning of trees.

If you have no neighbours 50 metres around the property should be cleared. At Canebieres account has been taken of clearance around the domaine. Each proprietor should clear their plot with neighbours clearing theirs. The domaine will do areas at the edge of the domaine.

The undergrowth [broussaillage] is to be cleared and the lower branches removed from trees up to a height of 2.5 metres for trees taller than 4 metres and up to two thirds of their height for others. Trees are also to be cut back from buildings so as to be 5 metres off the roof.

The owner of a plot on which the tree is situated is responsible for cutting it down or pruning it including if over hangs the neighbours property. All fallen or cut branches are to be cleared. There is to be a 5 metre gap between trees but hedges more then 5 metres from the property can be kept if they are less then 3 metres in height.

Mimosas should removed but may be replaced with something else if desired. Bruyere, which looks like heather that can grow to 6 feet or more [2metres] is very inflammable and is to be removed. Eucalyptus trees which are more than 5 metres from the property can remain.

After plots have been inspected a notice will be sent to the proprietors of plots indicating when needs to be done. There will be a further inspection in June 2012 to see that the work has been carried out.

As clearance is considered a civil responsibility legal proceedings may follow if the work required is not carried out. I have heard since the meeting that if work is not carried out the Mairie will organise for it to be done and charge for the work. If any payments which are required are not made legal action by the Mairie will follow.

The other aspect to consider is that if the work is not done will any insurance company try to use that so as not to pay out if there is damage caused by fire??

Bob thanked Pam for her translation at the end of the presentation. I did my best to record what was said during the presentation however owners should refer to the notice which they will have received from the domaine. Attached is the written instructions from the Mairie and used during the presentation. If this overloads my computer I will send these separately.

After the presentation was completed there were a number of questions to M Paul de Coninck.

In reply to a question about internet access M de Coninck said that he was looking at hot spots on the domaine to set up WIFI to give wide coverage.

The opening hours of the library were raised to which he replied that this was the responsibility of the Lauriers. For it to be more widely open volunteers were needed.

Space for a book exchange was raised as it was not possible to leave items in the post room. M de Coninck said that so many items were left on the table that it hindered the office staff sorting mail. He said that he would see if a shelf could be erected to allow this.

Bob reported that sadly Peter Skilton and Barrie Davis had died. Our condolences go to their families.

The meeting was then closed.

2 BROS Accounts

Tony Godwin the treasurer has reported that the accounts are in a sound position. The accounts will be published in the first newsletter in the New Year. The subscription is £5 or 7€ per year. Will members please pay their subscription to Tony Godwin, 36 Woodmans Vale, Chipping Sodbury, Bristol, BS37 6DL. Sterling cheques only please.

3 Miscellaneous

The matter of collision waver insurance for car hire in France has been raised particularly as hire companies make quite a high charge for this insurance. This followed an accident on the access road to Canebieres involving a British visitor who had not obtained such insurance.

The only one I have used is Insurance4carhire obtained via the internet. The cost for annual insurance is £44.10 or if over 75 years of age £58.50. [at 12thOctober, 2011]

One of our members who has just sold received unexpected bill from the domain for about 80€ which referred to under paid charges over many years. From time to time a Certified Bankers' Draft had been used to make the payment. The owner having worked in a bank was able to obtain these without any charge. However the domaine's French bank was making a charge when the drafts were presented which the owner was not aware of. The effect of this was that there was a short fall in their payments. Had the owner been aware of this, this system of payment would not have been used.

The owner was upset that the domaine had not pointed out this sort fall when it had occurred. If you use this method account must be taken of this fact.

Barry Richardson raised three matters with me by letter which I raised with M de Coninck.

If an electric fence is used to keep out the wild boar who is responsible if a child or small animal is injured. Such fences are the responsibility of the owner of the plot. Perhaps some other method might be used but in any case anybody contemplating this should speak to the domaine first.

Item 2 was the use of variable direct debits by the domaine on owner's bank accounts to pay their charges. This is not possible at this time.

The other Item was the broken mirror at the entrance. This is to be moved to a better position and repaired.

I know it is rather early but Dot and I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Bob West.

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Eloignement des cimes des arbres :

①

- de 5 m de toute construction.....
- de 5 m entre elles.

Coupe

- des arbres morts
- des branches mortes

Suppression des arbustes sous les

arbres,



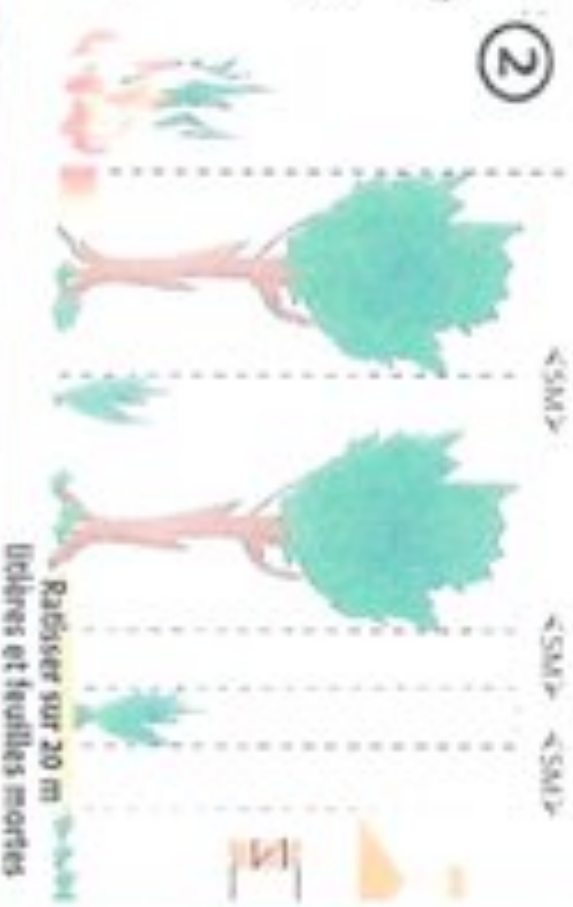
Elagage des arbres sur une hauteur :

②

- de 2,5 m pour les sujets de plus de 4m,
- sur les 2/3 de leur hauteur pour les autres,

Ratissage dans la zone des 20 m

- autour des constructions, installations,
- de la litière,
- des feuilles mortes



Coupe rase de la végétation

- herbacée,
- ligneuse basse,

herbacée



Élimination des végétaux coupés.

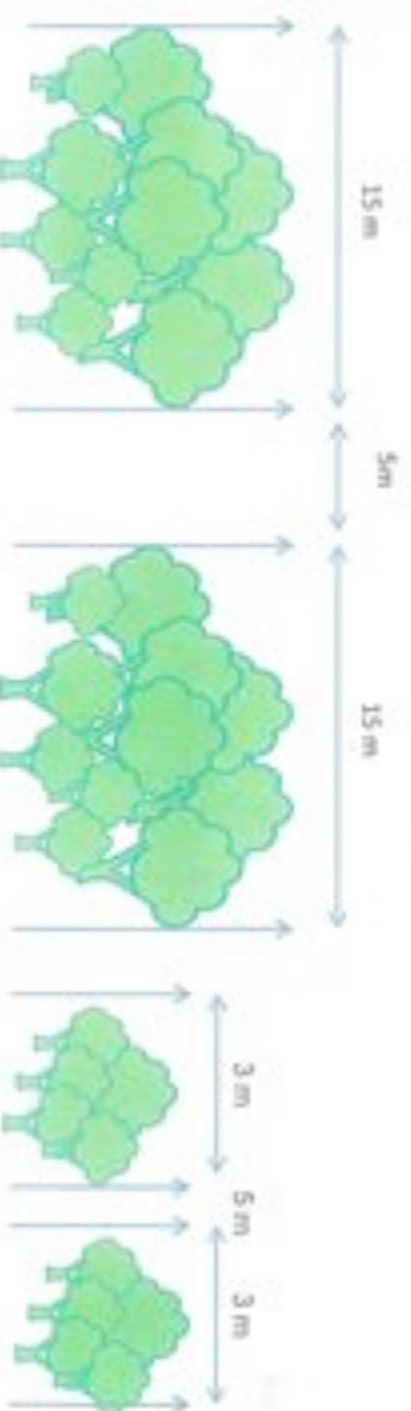


Suppression des aiguilles de pins sur toiture



Sont autorisés des bouquets :

- d'arbres d'une dimension de 15 m
- d'arbustes de 3 m maximum.



Les haies non séparatives sont assimilées à des bouquets d'arbres.
Les haies séparatives seront maintenues à une hauteur et une largeur de 2 m maximum.

