



Tree Policy

1.0 General Policy

This policy defines the Parish Council's approach to tree management on its land.

1.1 The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining its trees (and hedges) in a safe condition and ensuring they do not create a legal nuisance.

1.2 The Council seeks to maintain and improve the amenity value of its trees (and hedges) and to consider the environmental impact of any works. It will avoid felling trees or removing hedges unless necessary and will consider replacement planting each time (replacement is mandatory after removal of trees with a TPO or in the Conservation area). If appropriate to the specific site, large wood debris may be left in situ for the creation of wildlife habitats.

2.0 Works to Trees (and hedges)

2.1 The Council will undertake a prioritised inspection programme of its trees (and hedges) to ensure that the risks are will mitigated. The emphasis will be on planned, rather than reactive, tree (and hedge) maintenance.

2.1.1 **Priority zones-** the Butts Playground, The Copper Beech in Stocks Lane cemetery, the limes at the Pitt, the wolf branch beech and sycamore in St Mary's Churchyard. To be assessed every two years by a professional arboricultural Consultant.

2.1.2 **All other areas-** assessment is to be undertaken by volunteers every 5 years. Leased areas -Council volunteers to monitor (5 yearly) the parish council managed area only at The Cinques Common (part of area 5), and The Log Field (area 6)

2.2 The Council will consider requests to inspect trees (and hedges) on the Council's land from members of the public. Unless the request concerns a potential danger, it will be added to the next scheduled inspection.

2.3 Records will be kept by the Clerks in the Tree file and electronically. A tree works list will be kept and actioned 6 monthly. Any tree (and hedge) work carried out will be subject to available budget which will be applied on a priority scale.

2.4 The Council may undertake works under its emergency powers if appropriate.

2.5 Works to trees under a Tree Preservation Order or in the Conservation area require the approval of SCDC. Clerks to make the relevant application.

2.6 Except in the case of an emergency, tree (and hedge) works will not take place during the bird nesting season (April to August).

Council resolved the policy and procedures relating to assessment and management of trees in Sept 2017. (Tree survey and assessing risk report- 12-09-17, item 64.2 (iii)). All significant trees are being recorded, numbered and monitored by volunteers (ongoing). Training has been provided (November 2017)

KR/LB

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