



TRAWDEN FOREST
PARISH COUNCIL

Tree Management Policy

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Trawden Forest Parish Clerk and RFO

Introduction

This policy identifies the Parish Council's approach to the management of trees on land owned by the Parish Council. It is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors and Council employees to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of trees.

As landowner, Trawden Forest Parish Council has a duty of care to ensure that all of the trees on its land are kept in an acceptable condition and do not put persons and property at unreasonable risk.

Policy

Inspections of trees will be carried out by a qualified arboriculturist on all land owned by the Parish Council. The frequency will be, as the industry standard, and be a minimum of:

- Trees in high-risk areas – ie near to public footpaths, roads or on allotments - every 3 years.
- Trees in medium risk areas – ie near to a footpath where there is a pedestrian no more than every 30 minutes - every 5 years.
- Trees in low-risk areas – ie near very low used footpaths or in non-pedestrian areas - every 7 years

Save for the purposes of dealing with proven cases of harm to property which would otherwise place undue financial burdens on the Parish Council, or where it would be good arboriculture practice to ensure the long-term amenity of trees which are of significant amenity value, only dead, dying, diseased or dangerous trees will be removed or made safe, whichever is deemed necessary.

A prioritised programme of tree work will be maintained based on the inspections and with an emphasis on planned rather than reactive tree maintenance. Where necessary, work will be considered in response to reports and complaints in conjunction with recommendations from the Borough Council's Tree Conservation Officer.

The Parish Council will allocate sufficient financial resources to ensure that it is able to manage the trees that it owns.

Consideration will always be given to the impact of any tree pruning or felling on local wildlife. Tree work will be scheduled to take place in periods where the impact on local wildlife is minimised. Opportunities in the vicinity or elsewhere within the Parish to provide wildlife habitats and reuse/recycle the waste wood produced will be pursued wherever practicable.

The Council will ensure all tree works are carried out to the most up to date and relevant British Standards for Tree Work. Tree pruning will only be undertaken where there is sound justification for the work. Where pruning is undertaken it will be in accordance with good arboriculture practice to ensure minimum harm to the tree and every effort will be made to ensure the general shape and character of each tree is retained.

In conjunction with the Tree Conservation Officer, at Pendle Borough Council, the Council will not:

- Fell or prune trees on Council owned land solely to alleviate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena.
- Fell or prune trees for reasons of light.
- Fell or prune trees solely for the reason that they are causing interference with television or satellite reception, unless complainants have taken other measures to improve reception without success and it can be proven that pruning will improve reception.
- Fell or prune trees to Improve the view from a property.
- Remove overhanging branches that aren't touching property.

The Council will consider works to:

- Ensure that there are clear site lines at junctions and access points, and for traffic signals and street signs.
- Minimise trip hazards.
- Ensure that street lighting is not unduly blocked.
- Remove the nuisance of a tree touching a property.
- Reduce interference with telephone wires (pruning only) when requested by the utility.

In considering any action the Council will take account of the amenity value of the trees concerned.

The Parish Council will give consideration to any complaints or requests regarding trees on Council owned property, taking into account it's tree management policy and/or advice from the Borough Council's Tree Conservation Officer or a qualified arboriculture expert.