



**Odiham**  
Parish Council

## **TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**Adopted on 4 December 2017**  
**Reviewed and adopted 13 May 2019**

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This is a policy for the management of trees owned and managed by Odiham Parish Council. It is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Cllrs and Council employees to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of trees.
- 1.2 A principle of English Common and Statute Law is that land/tree owners have a duty of care to visitors, residents, passers-by and indeed trespassers when on their land.
- 1.3 This means that the Parish Council has a responsibility to take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of death or injury to those on Parish Council land.
- 1.4 Any queries on trees belonging to Odiham Parish Council should be made to the Parish Council Office, telephone 01256 702716 or email:eo@odiham.org.uk.
- 1.5 Trees on other open spaces may be the responsibility of Hart Council.
- 1.6 Trees situated within the public highway, adjacent to the road or on roadside verges, are generally the responsibility of Hampshire County Council.
- 1.7 Trees help to add variety to our landscape and provide valuable habitats for many species while providing us with cleaner, filtered air. Odiham Parish Council aims to preserve Odiham's trees for future generations to enjoy.

## **2. Work that Odiham Parish Council will carry out on Council owned trees**

- 2.1 The Council will ensure that inspections of trees are carried out by a qualified tree surgeon on all land owned by the Council. These inspections will be carried out on a **3 yearly** basis, unless the need arises for more frequent inspections as advised by the tree surgeon.
- 2.2 The last full tree survey was carried out in **November 2016** by Alderwood Consulting Ltd and some trees were re-assessed in May 2018. A prioritised programme of tree works will be maintained based on this inspection.
- 2.3 The council will allocate sufficient resources to ensure that it is able to manage the trees that it owns.
- 2.4 The Council will request that any tree surgeon carrying out work on trees on Council owned land should provide the Council with a copy of their public liability insurance certificate and that they adhere to the appropriate standards.
- 2.5 Whilst maintaining our trees, consideration will be given to the impact of tree pruning or felling on local wildlife and tree work will be scheduled to take place in periods where the impact on wildlife will be minimal.
- 2.6 Whilst maintaining our trees we will:
  - Remove dead, dying, diseased and dangerous trees
  - Remove dangerous and damaged limbs

## **3. Work that Odiham Parish Council will not carry out on Council owned Trees**

- 3.1 We have no obligation to carry out the following tree works:
  - Cut back branches overhanging private property.
  - 'Top' trees or remove branches to increase daylight or decrease height in relation to property.
  - Remove branches or trees affecting views or interfering with TV reception.

- Remove branches or trees to prevent falling leaves, honeydew from aphids or other minor debris.
  - Remove roots from drains or repair root damage to structures, where the tree has not been clearly demonstrated to be the principal cause.
  - Remove branches or trees to prevent potential root damage to structures.
  - Remove branches nearly touching buildings, walls, roofs, fences etc.
  - Remove branches or trees to prevent access to squirrels or birds.
- 3.2 The Council will give consideration to any complaints regarding trees on Council owned property, taking into account its tree management policy and/or advice from a qualified tree surgeon.
- 3.3 If members of the public would like tree works carried out as per this section, they should make their own arrangements as described below.

#### **4. Carrying out tree works yourself and Pruning Guidance**

- 4.1 In common law, a property owner can cut back overhanging branches to the boundary of their property. The Parish Council would usually have no objection to property owners carrying out tree work or engaging a contractor at their own expense, provided that:
- Access is not gained onto the neighbouring land or to a tree within that land; if access to our land or to a tree on that land is required, our permission must be sought.
  - The tree is not situated in a Conservation Area or protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).
  - Any work done to a tree is not detrimental to its health or stability; for their own protection members of the public are advised to obtain advice from a qualified tree surgeon.
  - For tree pruning work, whoever does the work, it is carried out to an acceptable standard, in accordance with the British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work 3998:1989.
  - The property owner notifies us (before the work begins) of the proposed work and commencement date.

**The Council does not carry out works to privately owned trees.**