

TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Introduction

Parwich Parish Council (PPC) has a legal duty of care to those who might be affected by trees on land that it manages. The National Tree Safety Group recognises this principle, but also that *“the risk trees pose to human safety is extremely low”* and that *“tree owners should take a balanced and proportionate approach to tree safety management”*.

This policy sets out the Parish Council’s approach to tree safety management.

This policy does not address the management of trees for purely aesthetic reasons.

Assessment

The following steps will be undertaken

1. Identify land managed with trees on it.
including Village Greens, Common Land and land owned by the council.
2. Consider the risk trees could cause in each area
- reflecting location and usage
3. Zone areas according to this risk
- associating each zone with a suitable level of inspection (if any)
4. Gather information on the condition of trees in each zone as required
5. Evaluate if any risks identified are unacceptable.
6. Identify actions to address unacceptable risks.
- e.g. restricted access, increased surveillance, surgery or removal

Each stage of this assessment will be recorded.

In addition to the above the Council will record any observations made to it by members of the public and include them in it’s assessment.

This assessment will be revised every 18 months. This is to allow inspection during different seasons.

Assessment and action can take place at any time in order to address any significant new hazard that may become apparent.

Any actions affecting a tree will be determined only after balancing the level of risk with the wider benefit of leaving the tree alone.

Action

Any actions affecting a tree will comply with requirements for approval, notice periods or restrictions arising from Tree Preservation Orders or Conservation Area status.

Any actions will be carried out in a manner compliant with the requirements of the Parish Council's insurers for maintaining liability cover.

Andrew Martin
Parish Clerk
October 2020