

SEND PARISH COUNCIL Tree Management Policy 2016

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

What will we do?

Send Parish Council is responsible for managing its trees in a safe condition and ensuring that they do not create a legal nuisance such as causing damage to property. To fulfil this responsibility the Parish Council will commission a professional tree survey of its trees **every three years**.

Preventative works identified from this inspection will then be included in an on-going tree maintenance programme which will include taking particular care where trees are on or close to public areas, paths, roads and buildings. To help quantify the risk of harm being caused to people or property the Parish Council **will 'zone' its land** in accordance with its use as **high, medium or low risk**.

The Council will employ contractors who are members of the Arboriculture Association to advise (when necessary) and carry out tree works to a standard appropriate to meet its responsibilities and legal obligations.

Tree works will be scheduled to take place in periods where the impact on local wildlife is minimised. Dead wood will be left standing or on the ground in habitat piles wherever possible.

This policy will also provide guidelines on the action the Parish Council will take in response to requests by the public to prune and maintain trees on land managed by the Council.

This policy should therefore ensure that the officers of the Council can deal with enquires confidently and that members of the public are treated consistently in line with the policy. It should also ensure that trees are not pruned or removed unnecessarily and the environment is protected.

As part of our tree risk management the Council will undertake routine inspections as below. In addition inspections of trees will be undertaken as part of the day to day duties.

Zone (level of risk)	Location of trees	Frequency
Low	Open areas with occasional use by the public	Annual assessment
Medium	Open space, roads and paths with moderate use; near occasionally-used buildings and car parks	Six monthly assessment
High	In play areas, recreation grounds, adjacent to the highway and well-used public paths and close to well-used buildings	3 monthly assessment

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Other management considerations

Type of tree works and procedure

Tree works may include pruning, pollarding, coppicing, crown reduction, end weight reduction, crown thinning, pole thinning, truncation and deadwood cutting or removal. The tree inspector will create a specification for contractors to carry out recommended works so that the Parish Clerk can seek quotations for works.

Insurance

It is noted that elimination of all risk is not possible. Violent storms and unpredictable events can result in tree failures leading to harm despite implementing this policy and its procedures. The Parish Council has insurance appropriate to its circumstances and ensures that those advising them or carrying out works are appropriately and adequately insured.

Nuisance management and remedial action

The Council will undertake remedial work over property boundaries where damage has occurred or is likely to do so imminently.

The Council will be unable to undertake one-off, reactive inspections to consider general nuisance issues which do not threaten public safety or property such as shade over a garden, deposits of seed/leaf litter, tree is considered too large, droppings from birds and TV reception interference.

Records and maps

The Council will keep records and maps with dates and items of work done.

Review of policy

This policy and procedures will be reviewed annually.

Approved and adopted by full Council -