

WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

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TREE POLICY

September 2021

POLICY FOR TREES ON PUBLIC LAND OR LAND MAINTAINED BY WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

West End Parish is committed to protecting its arboricultural heritage through positive tree management on land owned or managed by the Parish Council.

Trees on other open spaces may be the responsibility of Eastleigh Borough Council.

The Council has an adopted 'Policy for trees on public land' and accepts its duty of care to manage these trees.

1. The Council is committed to planting, protecting, improving and developing the Parish Council's tree stock in appropriate public places. This will be achieved in two main ways:
 - a. through the adoption of a continuous programme of tree survey and maintenance; and
 - b. through seeking a continuous improvement in the quality and quantity of trees on public land. A range of species will be selected for new and replacement planting taking into account their suitability to each site. Preference to be given to native species.
2. The Council's priority in the management of the Parish Council's trees will be that of public safety. Where a tree constitutes a demonstrable hazard to people or property, then the appropriate works will be carried out as a matter of urgency to render the tree safe by a qualified tree surgeon.
3. The Council is committed to maintaining the health and longevity of trees through appropriate management. Appropriate works will be undertaken on unhealthy trees where they are threatened by disease or instability.
4. Trees on public land will be encouraged to develop as well balanced individuals of a natural form characteristic of their particular species. Works on such trees will be carried out to the highest standards of Arboricultural practice and in accordance with all relevant health and safety legislation. All tree works will be carried out to at least BS 3998, 1989 standards, either by a suitable Arboricultural contractor or in house, if appropriate.
5. The Council will **not** unless legally obliged to do so undertake works to otherwise healthy and well-formed trees for reasons of:
 - Branches overhanging adjacent property / gardens etc.
 - Size or height (trees are naturally large organisms).
 - Shedding of leaf, seed, fir cone, twig, flower litter and fruit debris and general vegetative detritus.
 - Loss of light or shading of gardens, rooms or solar panels.
 - Interference with transmitted signals (TV, satellite or other forms of electronic communication or reception).
 - Honeydew secretion.
 - Reduced security by virtue of concealment or reduced visibility.
 - Remove trees to enhance countryside by creating vistas.
 - Alleged damage to property / gardens by roots or branches (direct or indirect).
 - Bird droppings and vermin.

- Interference with BT & electricity company services.
- Vandalism e.g. thrown apples.
- Hayfever/ allergies.
- Dampness/ algae/ moss.
- To create or reinstate private views.

Under Common Law, providing the tree is not the subject of a Tree Preservation Order or within a Conservation Area landowners may prune unprotected trees or hedges overhanging their land as far as their boundary without the consent of the owner of the tree or hedge. If the resultant works cause instability or lead to the decline or death of the tree, liability will be attached to the person arranging or carrying out the work. They must not trespass on the neighbouring land to carry out the work, and should offer to return the cut material (arising's). However, the Council will not accept arising's from work to its trees, and these should be disposed of responsibly; dumping on Council land is fly-tipping and may be subject to prosecution.

6. The Council will ensure that trees on public land are retained wherever possible and are given appropriate protection from the effects of development and construction activities including the installation of underground utilities.
7. The Council will ensure that all woodlands on public land are managed appropriately in accordance with accepted forestry practices and traditional methods of woodland management and with respect for their value as important landscape features, wildlife habitats and recreational amenities.
8. The Council will notify local residents in advance where possible if major tree works are required. A clear explanation will be given as to why such works are necessary.
9. The Council will market all usable healthy timber which arises from tree works where it is cost effective to do so.

To assist with routine management and to regularise inspections, the Council will categorise trees as follows :

HIGH RISK	Those trees such as those which overhang residential neighbours' properties, a play area or well-frequented paths, will be inspected annually
MEDIUM RISK	Those trees such as those which are located close to informal paths, will be inspected every three years
LOW RISK	No regular routine inspection of trees

The planting of memorial trees is at the discretion of the Parish Council