



Tree Management Policy

Adopted	6 th December 2021 Minute 333/21
Reviewed	6 th February 2023 Minutes 23.23 (3)
To be reviewed	February 2024

The Policy

This policy sets out Elham Parish Councils approach to the management of trees on land owned or leased by Elham Parish Council.

This policy has been created to provide guidance for the Parish Council, Councillors and members of the public to ensure a consistence approach is adhered to regarding the management of the trees owned by or the responsibility of Elham Parish Council.

Inspection

All trees on Elham Parish Council land will be inspected annually by the qualified Arboriculturist. Any recommendations made by the Arboriculturist are to be considered by the Full Council in line with this policy. A record of all inspections will be kept by Elham Parish Council.

Maintenance

Elham Parish Council has adopted a proactive approach to tree maintenance; however, only essential/minimal works will be undertaken in order to manage a tree because Elham Parish Council supports a policy of tree preservation. The type of works undertaken will depend on the tree(s) location, the species of the tree and its state of health at the time.

Regular inspection will be carried out to identify issues at the earliest juncture, so that preventative action can be taken where possible. Areas close to roads, buildings and with high public usage will be prioritised.

As a guide, tree works will be undertaken in the following circumstances:

1. When an inspection has identified the tree as potentially hazardous or an immediate danger.
2. If the works are vital to the trees long term survival. Dead, dying or diseased trees will only be fully removed when there is no other option.
3. To abate an actionable nuisance where branches are touching buildings e.g. physical contact with walls, windows and gutters.
4. When previous maintenance regimes have determined future works are of the same specification for that specimen e.g. pollarding, crown reduction.

The impact on local wildlife of all tree works, specifically felling and pruning will always be thoroughly considered with the impact minimised where possible.

Where appropriate dead and fallen wood will be left on site unless there are safety reasons for its removal.

All works will be agreed on the professional advice received from the qualified arboriculturist and carried out by a qualified tree surgeon appointed by Elham Parish Council.

Protected Trees

A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) prevents cutting down, uprooting, topping, lopping, wilful damage or destruction of trees (including cutting roots) without permission received from Folkestone and Hythe District Council.

It is an offence to cut down, lop, top or uproot, wilfully damage or destroy a tree in a Conservation Area without receiving approval from Folkestone and Hythe District Council.

Requests for Tree Works

Whilst Elham Parish Council will consider the impact of trees in each case on individual merit, we will not fell or prune trees on land owned or leased by the Parish Council if its for any of the following non-arboricultural reasons:

1. Solely to alleviate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena e.g. falling leaves, fruit, seed/berries, bird dropping, pollen etc.
2. Solely for reasons of increasing sunlight / views to properties and gardens.
3. Solely for the reason that the tree(s) is causing interference with television or satellite reception. In most cases the problem can be resolved by relocating the aerial or satellite dish. Resident will be advised to contact their satellite or tv provider for specialist advice. Removal or pruning to enable clear television reception would only be considered in exceptional circumstances.
4. Adjacent landowners have a common law right to prune back tree branches to their boundary, providing that would not lead to tree death and providing that the tree is question is not protected by a TPO or situated within a Conservation Area.
5. Tree roots in gardens are a natural occurrence and root presence is unlikely to be affected by tree pruning or removal. Encroachment of roots into adjoining land is not considered to amount to reasonable nuisance.
6. Landowners are reminded that if access to Elham Parish Council land is required to carry out pruning you will **require written permission from Elham Parish Council before carrying out such works.**

7. Elham Parish Council will consider all formal applications for tree works on land owned or leased by the Parish Council, however, these must be in writing either by letter or email:

Elham Parish Council
3 Coach House Mews,
High Street,
Elham
Canterbury
Kent
CT4 6TD
cgreenwood@elhampc.co.uk

For an informal conversation and advice regarding tree works, please contact the Clerk on 07702268475.