

Easton on the Hill Parish Council

Hibbins Cottage, The Green, Ketton, Stamford PE9 3RA

Email: clerk@eastononthehill-pc.gov.uk

TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This is a policy for the management of trees owned and managed by Easton on the Hill Parish Council.

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. 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.

Trees help to add variety to our landscape and provide valuable habitats for many species while providing us with cleaner, filtered air. Easton on the Hill Parish Council aims to preserve the village's trees for future generations to enjoy.

Where trees are removed due to a recommendation from an inspection, a recommendation will be sought for suitable replacement trees (species, location) and where possible this will be accommodated.

2.0 WORK THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL CARRY OUT ON COUNCIL OWNED TREES

To maintain our trees, we will;

- Remove dead, dying and dangerous trees
- Remove dangerous and damaged branches

It is our policy to survey our trees on a regular basis, but also if villagers suspect that trees require works under this section, members of the public should contact the Clerk at clerk@eastononthehill-pc.gov.uk.

The Parish Council received advice from a specialist on the regularity required for trees to be surveyed; The entire tree stock will be inspected on a rolling program moving forward by a competently trained individual. These inspections will be roughly every 18 months with the aim to assess the tree stock in winter and summer in order to pick up seasonal variances. Additional to this, the council may instruct an inspection following any storm events.

Trees will be inspected as per this advice and if works required, they will be programmed as necessary. All spend will be agreed at full council meetings. If urgent work is required, the clerk will authorise work and spend in line with the council's financial regulations.

3.0 WORK THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL NOT CARRY OUT ON COUNCIL OWNED TREES

Occasionally, the Parish Council will receive requests from residents who live adjacent land owned by the Parish Council to carry out tree work. If it has not been highlighted as needing work doing, it is unlikely to be work that is essential for either the health of the tree or the health and safety of the public. However, it may be that the tree is causing a legal nuisance or obstruction to footpaths or damaging buildings. The Parish Council will seek advice from a tree specialist in this case.

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 proven to be the principal cause.
- Remove branches nearly touching buildings, walls, roofs, fences etc
- Remove branches or trees to prevent access to squirrels, birds
- The Parish Council will not carry out any work to privately owned trees.

Members of the public wishing for any of the above works, should make their own arrangements.

4.0 CARRYING OUT TREE WORKS AND PRUNING GUIDANCE

In common law a property owner can cut back overhanging branches to the boundary of their property. The Parish Council would normally have no objection to property owners carrying out tree work or engaging a contractor at their 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 Protection Order (TPO)
- Any work done to a tree is not detrimental to its health or stability. For their own protection, members of the public should 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.
- The property owner notifies us before the work begins of the proposed work and commencement date.