



Framlingham Town Council

Policy for trees on Town Council owned land

Framlingham Town Council is responsible for the management of all trees on land it owns in the Cemetery, Pageant Field and Fens as well as the Churchyard under a maintenance agreement with St Michael's PCC.

The Town Council has a statutory duty of care under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Occupiers Liability Acts 1954 and 1984 to ensure so far as is reasonably practicable its trees are safe and not a danger to the public.

This Policy outlines how the Town Council will manage its tree stock.

1. The Town Council is committed to protecting, improving and developing its tree stock in 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. The Town Council will strive to replace one tree for each tree removed where possible.
2. The Town Council's priority in the management of its trees will be that of public safety and maintaining the health and longevity of the trees. Where a tree constitutes a demonstrable hazard to people or property, then the appropriate works will be undertaken.
3. Trees will be encouraged through minimal intervention 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. The Town Council will ensure all tree works are carried out to BS3998:2010 'Recommendations for Tree Work' (plus revisions) and will produce a detailed specification for all tree works

4. The Town 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.
- 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.
- Alleged damage to property / gardens by roots or branches (direct or indirect).
- Bird droppings.
- Solar panels.
- BT & electricity company services.
- Vermin.
- Vandalism e.g. thrown apples.
- Hay fever/ allergies.
- Dampness/ algae/ moss.
- To create or reinstate private views.

Your rights extend to your boundary; under Common Law, providing there is no protection on the tree (Tree Preservation Order, Conservation Area) landowners may prune unprotected trees or hedges overhanging their land as far as their boundary without the consent of the land owner. However, you must not trespass on to your neighbour's land to do this. In addition, you should offer to return the arisings. Liability will be attached to you if the resultant works cause instability or lead to the decline or death of the tree. Arisings should be disposed of responsibly; dumping on Town Council land is fly-tipping and may be subject to prosecution.

5. The Town Council will ensure that trees in its area of responsibility are retained wherever possible and are given appropriate protection from the effects of development and construction activities including the installation of underground utilities.
6. The Town Council will ensure that all trees in its area of responsibility are managed appropriately in accordance with accepted arboricultural practices and with respect for their value as important landscape features, wildlife habitats and recreational amenities.
7. The Town Council will only notify local residents in advance where major tree works will cause direct disruption to adjacent residential properties.