



Tree Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Policy sets out the management of trees owned and maintained by Weston Turville Parish Council. It has been created to provide guidance for the Council and public to ensure a clear and consistent approach to the management of trees by WTPC.
- 1.2 The Parish Council has a duty of care to ensure that all trees on Parish Council owned land are kept in an acceptable condition and do not put people or property at unreasonable risk.
- 1.3 Trees situated on the public highway, adjacent to the road or on roadside verges are generally the responsibility of Bucks County Council and issues with these should be reported to them directly on 01296 395000.
- 1.4 Trees are a vital part of our landscape and provide habitats for wildlife and cleaner air for us, Weston Turville Parish Council aims to preserve trees on its land for future generations.

2. Inspection

- 2.1 All trees on Council owned land will be routinely inspected every three years, unless more regular inspections are recommended by a qualified tree inspector.
- 2.2 Regular visual inspections will be carried out by the Council and an inspection by a qualified tree inspector will be arranged if a tree appears to be damaged or diseased,
- 2.3 Any recommendations in the inspector's report will be considered by the Council in line with this policy.

3. Maintenance

- 3.1 Tree works will be carried out in the following circumstances:
 - 3.1.1 Where an inspection has identified the tree as potentially hazardous or an immediate danger.
 - 3.1.2 Upon recommendation from the tree inspector.
 - 3.1.3 If the works are vital to the tree's long term health and survival.
 - 3.1.4 If the tree branches are touching buildings, eg contact with walls, windows, gutters etc.
- 3.2 The impact on local wildlife will be considered to minimise impact where possible when felling or pruning trees.
- 3.3 Where appropriate, dead and fallen wood will be left on site unless there are conservation or safety reasons for its removal.
- 3.4 All tree work will be carried out by a qualified tree surgeon and be carried out to specification of the inspector where applicable.

4. Protected Trees

- 4.1 A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) prevents felling, uprooting, lopping, wilful damage or destruction of trees without permission from Aylesbury Vale District Council.
- 4.2 It is an offence to carry out any works to trees within a Conservation Area without giving prior notice to Aylesbury Vale District Council.

5. Requests for Tree Works

- 5.1 The Parish Council will consider each request on individual merit and circumstance, however it will not fell, prune or reduce the height of trees on Parish Council owned land if it is for one of the following reasons:
 - 5.1.1 To remove branches overhanging private property.
 - 5.1.2 To alleviate problems caused naturally or seasonally, eg falling leaves or fruit, seeds, etc
 - 5.1.3 To increase sunlight or views to properties and gardens.
 - 5.1.4 If the tree is causing interference with television reception, in most cases the problem can be resolved by moving the aerial/satellite dish.
 - 5.1.5 To remove roots from drains or repair root damage to structures,, where the tree has not been clearly demonstrated to be the principal cause.

If members of the public would like tree works carried out as described above, they should make their own arrangements as described below.

6. Carrying out tree works and pruning guidance

Adjacent landowners have a common law right to prune back tree branches to their boundary, provided the tree is not protected by a TPO or in a Conservation Area and that the pruning does not lead to the death of the tree. They can also prune back tree roots to their boundary with the same provisos.

The Parish Council would usually have no objection to the property owners carrying out tree work or engaging a contractor at their own expense, provided that:

- 6.1 If access to Parish Council land is required for tree works to be carried out, permission must be sought from the Parish Council.
- 6.2 The tree is not protected by a TPO or situated within a Conservation Area.
- 6.3 Any work done to a tree is not detrimental to its health or stability, for their own protection landowners are advised to get advice from a qualified tree surgeon.
- 6.4 Any waste arising from the tree pruning should be disposed of correctly and not left on the Council's land.
- 6.5 Tree pruning work is carried out in accordance with the British Standard Recommendations for tree work 3998:2110.
- 6.6 The landowner should notify the Parish Council (before work begins) of the proposed work and start date.

The Parish Council does not carry out works to trees which are not located on their land.

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