

# **BRADFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

## **TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

As adopted by Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

This policy identifies the Council's approach to the management of trees on land owned by the Parish Council. It is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors and Council employees to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of trees.

If a tree falls and causes injury or damage its owner could be held negligent if they had omitted to take sufficient care of the tree. As landowner, the Council has a duty of care to ensure that all of the trees on its land are kept in an acceptable condition and do not put persons and property at unreasonable risk.

The Council are to ensure that inspections of trees are carried out by a qualified tree surgeon on all land owned by the Parish Council. These inspections are to be carried out on a 5 yearly basis unless the need arises for more frequent inspections, as advised by the tree surgeon. Dead, dying, diseased or dangerous trees will be removed or made safe, whichever is deemed necessary. In some circumstances there may be a need to fell healthy trees to encourage habitat diversity and to provide specific habitat requirements for declining or priority species.

A prioritised programme of tree work will be maintained based on the inspections and with an emphasis on planned rather than reactive tree maintenance.

The Council will allocate sufficient resources to ensure that it is able to manage the trees that it owns.

Consideration will always be given to the impact of any tree pruning or felling on local wildlife.

Tree work will be scheduled to take place in periods where the impact on local wildlife is minimised. Dead wood will be left standing or on the ground in habitat piles wherever possible.

The Council will ensure all tree works are carried out to BS3998/1989 British Standards for Tree Work 1989 (and any subsequent revisions). Tree pruning will only be undertaken where there is sound justification for the work. Where pruning is undertaken it will be in accordance with good arboriculture practice to ensure minimum harm to the tree and every effort will be made to ensure the general shape and character of each tree is retained.

The Council will not fell or prune trees on Council owned land solely to alleviate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena or for reasons of light. However in some circumstances there may be a need to fell or prune in order to encourage habitat diversity and to provide specific habitat requirements for declining or priority species.

The Council will not fell or prune trees solely for the reason that they are causing interference with television or satellite reception, unless complainants have taken other measures to improve reception without success and it can be proven that pruning will improve reception. In considering any action the Council will take account of the amenity value of the trees concerned.

The Council will give consideration to any complaints/ requests regarding trees on Council owned property, taking into account its tree management policy and/or advice from a qualified tree surgeon.