

SWALLOWFIELD PARISH COUNCIL



TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

*Adopted at the
Parish Council Meeting held on
8th November 2016*

REVISION HISTORY**Revisions**

Adopted	Significant Amendments
March 2011	First adopted
November 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revised wording• Inclusion of inspection regime• Inclusion of timing for work

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1 OVERVIEW

This policy relates to how trees on land owned by the Parish Council are maintained and requests for maintenance by third parties are dealt with.

The PC has the trees on its land independently inspected for health and safety purposes on a regular basis by a suitably qualified professional and undertakes work as recommended by the inspection.

2 ISSUES REPORTED TO THE COUNCIL

- Trees or hedges overhanging or encroaching on a public footpath
- Trees or hedges overhanging or obstructing visibility on a public road
- Dead or diseased trees on public land

3 ACTIONS

When the Council is advised of issues by third parties, the following policy will apply:

- 3.1 The Council will commission an inspection by a suitably qualified professional to investigate the issue providing that the issue relates to health and safety or potential damage to property and/or infrastructure.

If a tree is considered to be a health and safety issue or at risk of endangering third party property/infrastructure then the Council will arrange for its chosen expert to recommend the necessary work required to remove the issue. The Council would then commission the work to be carried out at the Council's expense.

In emergency situations the Clerk has the discretion to take immediate action.

- 3.2 If the third party considers that a tree is causing an anti-social problem then the Council will make investigations and if it considers the request to be reasonable it will agree to work being carried out, subject to a contribution from the householder being agreed in advance.
- 3.3 The Council is not legally obliged to cut back growth overhanging a neighbouring property. The neighbouring property is free to cut back any branches overhanging his own property but may need to check whether the tree is protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).
- 3.4 The Council follows the guidelines issued by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Wildlife and Conservation groups to protect birds during the nesting season. This means that the Council will generally stop tree works between March and August. If there is any likelihood that the works would disturb nesting birds or other wildlife, works will be postponed until later in the year.