



QUENIBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

TREE & HEDGE POLICY

Introduction

1. This is a policy for the management of trees owned and managed by the Queniborough Parish Council.
2. Trees help to add variety to our landscape and provide valuable habitats for many species while providing us with cleaner, filtered air. Queniborough Parish Council aims to preserve its trees for future generations to enjoy.

Queniborough Parish Council has a duty of care to visitors when on their land

3. This means that the Parish Council has a responsibility to take reasonable steps to reduce the risk to those on Parish Council land. The Parish Council has land at King George V Playing Field, Rearsby Road Playing Field and South Croxton Road Cemetery. This policy applies to trees on those pieces of land.
4. Any queries on trees belonging to Queniborough Parish Council, should be made to the Parish Council Office, telephone 0116 260 3313 or email: clerk@queniborough-pc.gov.uk.
5. Trees situated on the roadside in the village are the responsibility of Leicestershire Highways Department. Tel: 0116 305 0002, Contact: <https://leicestershirecc-self.achieveservice.com/en/service/Custom-er-Services-Contact-Us-Form>
6. If residents require any advice on planning regulations and trees, this is available from Charnwood Borough Council. Tel: 01509 634570, email: trees@charnwood.gov.uk.
7. The Council does give permission for memorial trees to be planted on its land, but prior permission must be granted. If advice is required, the Clerk can provide this and apply for permission from the Parish Council.
8. ***No trees must be planted on either the Parish Council's land or the Highway without the express permission of the relevant authority, as the future care of that tree***

becomes the responsibility of that authority. The tree will then be listed on the Council's tree audit.

ANY TREES PLANTED WITHOUT PERMISSION MAY BE REMOVED

Work that Queniborough Parish Council will carry out on Council owned trees

9. In maintaining our trees, we will:
 - Remove dead, dying and dangerous trees
 - Remove dangerous and damaged limbs
10. It is our policy to survey our trees on a regular basis by the Council's gardener/handyman, Councillors and a qualified tree surgeon. If trees require works under this section, members of the public should contact the Parish Office on 0116 260 3313 or email clerk@queniborough-pc.gov.uk. Further information on the tree inspection programme can be obtained from the Parish Office.
11. The trees will be tagged with numbers and a tree survey will be carried out every 2-3 years. If works are required this will be programmed as necessary.

Work that Queniborough Parish Council will not carry out to Council owned Trees

12. 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 clearly demonstrated to be the principal cause.
 - Remove branches or trees to prevent potential root damage to structures.
 - Remove branches nearly touching buildings, walls, roofs, fences etc.
 - Remove branches or trees to prevent access to squirrels or birds.
13. If members of the public would like tree works carried out as per this Section, they should make their own arrangements as described below.

Carrying out tree works yourself and Pruning Guidance

14. In common law, a property owner can cut back overhanging branches to the boundary of his / her property. The Parish Council would usually have no objection to property owners carrying out tree work or engaging a contractor at their own 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 Preservation Order (TPO).
 - any work done to a tree is not detrimental to its health or stability; for their own protection members of the public are advised to 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 3998:1989.
 - The property owner notifies us (before the work begins) of the proposed work and commencement date.

The Council does not carry out works to privately owned trees.

Adopted by Queniborough Parish Council 20th March 2019
Reviewed 18th October 2023, Minute No 8095