

Overview of the Tree Management Policy



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Background



- Trees are a highly valued feature of County Durham
- The species, size and nature of our trees varies considerably
- Although trees are a very positive feature they can sometimes cause problems, from being a nuisance or inconvenience to potentially causing serious injury or even death
- As a tree owner, Durham County Council have a direct responsibility for ensuring our trees do not pose a danger to the public or property and are maintained appropriately
- Durham County Council has a duty under the Highways Act to ensure that those trees in private ownership adjacent to the highway do not pose a danger to its users.

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Policy Overview



- Policy initially came into effect in July 2014
- It brought together a number of tree management policies and practices inherited from the former Councils and was subject to wide public consultation.
- Policy was reviewed in July 2017 to take account of any subsequent changes to legislation / codes of practice.
- Ensures Service requests consistently responded to and provides a clear basis for decision making
- Outlines ways in which the Council will ensure its own tree stock is in a safe condition

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- A number of Town & Parish Council's and the County Durham Housing group have adopted the policy for use on their own areas.
- The policy is governed by arboricultural best practice and guided by recommendations within British Standards for tree works.
- The policy is a guide and the circumstances on the ground may involve a combination of factors identified therefore some element of discretion is required

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Tree Maintenance



- Majority of our tree stock is safe and healthy
- Trees are naturally growing / evolving organisms that do not generally need active management / attention.
- Lots of regular pruning / maintenance work to trees is neither needed nor desirable.
- Policy informs what we will / will not do and helps to prioritise works / resources.
- For example severe crown reduction / topping is not normally carried out as it can severely affect tree health or encourage a flush of weak re-growth.

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DEALING WITH TREE CARE - GUIDANCE

- Obstructing / Overhanging Tree Branches
- Shading and Loss of Light
- Loss of Views
- Trees affecting reception (television / satellite / solar Panels)
- Overhead Cables / Telephone Wires
- General / Minor Nuisances e.g. falling leaves, sap, blossoms, fruit, nuts, birds and insect droppings
- Poisonous fruit / foliage
- Trees considered too big / too tall
- Causing a detriment to the health of residents

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Any Questions?



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