



Knaresborough
Town Council

TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. Introduction:

The Council has a statutory duty of care under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Occupiers Liability Act 1999 to ensure that members of the public and staff are not put at risk because of any failure by the Council to take all reasonable precautions to ensure their safety. There is a need to inspect trees in or near public spaces, to assess whether they represent a foreseeable risk to persons or property and to take remedial action as appropriate. There is an unacceptable level of risk associated with the Council's tree assets where there is no defensible system in place.

This document sets out the maintenance and management of trees on land owned by Knaresborough Town Council.

The policy is intended to act as a framework document that will define the Council's approach to the management of its trees which will in turn lead to several benefits including:

- Delivering the safe and efficient management and sustainability of trees
- Creation of more opportunities for wildlife to thrive in amenity open space
- Delivery of a structured maintenance programme to enhance the quality of the existing tree stock
- The ability to defend tree related insurance claims
- Clear guidance as to the levels and types of works the Council will carry out to its trees, such as felling decisions, pruning and replanting in response to maintenance requirements in terms of tree health and requests from members of the public
- Helping to mitigate against the climate change emergency

2. Safety Inspections and Maintenance:

- The Council will carry out three year cyclical inspections of all trees on Council managed land. The trees will be surveyed to assess their physiological and structural position.
- Inspections will be carried out by a qualified arboriculturalist and any tree work carried out will be based solely upon his/her advice.

- Every tree that is subject to an enquiry will be inspected on an individual basis. An inspection will be undertaken and the enquirer will be informed as to what work, if any, will be carried out.
- The Council will work to create a balance between the needs of the residents whilst still preserving the amenity of the area.

The Council has **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 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 structure
- Remove branches nearly touching buildings, walls, roofs, fences etc.
- Remove branches or trees to prevent access to squirrels or birds.

Knaresborough Town Council owns land with trees at Jubilee Allotments, KASH Allotments and The Community Centre/King George V playing field.

Knaresborough Town Council manages land owned by Harrogate Borough Council, but leased to KTC at Weirside Terrace on Waterside.