

**WINSFORD TOWN COUNCIL****MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019****DRAFT TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY – AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION***Introduction*

- Confirmation of the importance of trees to the natural environment
- Links with CWAC Tree and Woodland Strategy
- Issues with trees
- Inspection of trees

*Scope of Policy*

- Covers all trees on WTC land

*Importance of Trees*

- Set out the importance of trees – CO<sub>2</sub>

*Legislation*

- List of relevant legislation

*Inspection*

- Risk-based approach

*Maintenance*

- 'Reactive' at the moment
- In future, aim is to be proactive
- Mix of programmed inspections and ad-hoc inspections
- Drawing on information from citizens and others
- Prioritisation process will be based on: -
  - Public safety threat (between 24 hours and one week depending on risk)
  - Non-urgent essential work (1-6 months)
  - Desirable work (12 months)
  - Non-priority (no action proposed)
- Tree could need immediate attention if it has snapped/blown over; it is rocking; it is uprooted but held up by another tree or building; large branch has broken off; branch blocking pathway or road; blocking access

- Three not requiring immediate attention could be because it is dead; dying; bark is loose; fungi is growing; old splits are noticeable; or smaller branches have broken off

#### *Tree Care*

- Will ensure consistency of approach
- Will seek to ensure obstructions/hazards are removed
- Will not consider tree removal to enhance light
- May consider in cases of a historic view being spoilt/affecting TV reception
- Pruning will be considered in most cases
- Will not remove a tree due to a medical complaint

#### *Damage and Tree Roots*

- Will investigate issues on a case by case basis
- Roots are natural and tree felling will not be undertaken
- In terms of damage to paths and/or drains, there is no evidence to say that tree roots can damage pipes and paths will be repaired to take note of tree roots where possible

#### *Protected Trees*

- The Town Council recognises its responsibilities in terms of Tree Preservation Orders and in Conservation Areas

#### *Other Factors*

- The Town Council will take into consideration birds and bats when examining trees

#### *Vandalism*

- WTC will investigate any reports of vandalism, including the planting of whips

#### *Pest and Epidemic Management*

- Will take precautions against pests and epidemics

#### *Tree Pruning Techniques*

- We will seek to ensure work is carried out to the highest standards
- Different approaches to be used including crown lifting; crown thinning; crown reduction; topping and pollarding