

FRAMINGHAM EARL PARISH COUNCIL

Policy for trees owned and managed by Framingham Earl Parish Council

Introduction

Framingham Earl Parish Council is committed to a long-term strategy of planting, protecting, retaining, improving, and developing stocks of trees, hedges and shrubs within the village. Where possible it will seek to continuously improve the quality and quantity of trees within the Parish. Where replacement or new planting is required it will encourage the planting of appropriate native species. Where tree felling is necessary the Parish Council will strive to ensure trees are replaced in an appropriate location nearby.

Framingham Earl Parish Council has signed *The Charter for Trees, Woods and People*, which sets out the principles for a society in which people and trees can stand stronger together.

As owners of land with trees, we have a legal duty of care to visitors, residents, passers-by and indeed trespassers when on our land. We will therefore take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of death or injury to those on Parish Council land.

Trees help to add variety to our landscape and provide valuable habitats for many species while providing us with cleaner, filtered air. Framingham Earl Parish Council aims to preserve Framingham Earl's trees for future generations to enjoy.

Work that Framingham Earl Parish Council will carry out on Council owned trees

In safeguarding our trees we will:

- Remove dead, diseased, dying and dangerous trees.
- Remove dangerous and damaged limbs.
- Comply with our legal obligations in respect of any tree that is subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

We will survey our trees on a regular basis, but if a parishioner considers that the trees require work in between surveys then they should contact the parish clerk.

The trees will be inspected and if works are required this will be programmed as necessary.

We will not ordinarily 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.

If members of the public would like tree works carried out as per this Section, they should make their own arrangements as described below.

A property owner can cut back overhanging branches to the boundary of their property. The Parish Council would usually have no objection to property owners carrying out tree work or engaging a contractor at their expense, provided that:

- Access onto 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 it is carried out to an acceptable standard, and in accordance with the British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work 3998: 2010
- The property owner notifies us (before the work begins) of the proposed work and commencement date.

Any queries regarding trees belonging to Framingham Earl Parish Council, should be made to the clerk of the Parish Council.

Trees situated with the public highway, adjacent to the road or on roadside verges, are generally the responsibility of Norfolk County Council. They can be contacted at information@norfolk.gov.uk.

Policy Review

Date of policy: This policy was reviewed and formally agreed at virtual Parish Council meeting 2nd March 2021.