



NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Northill Parish Council Tree Policy

This is a policy for the management of trees owned and managed by Northill Parish Council.

A principle of English Common and Statute Law is that land/tree owners have a duty of care to visitors, residents, passers-by and indeed trespassers when on their land. This means that the Parish Council has a responsibility to take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of death or injury to those on Parish Council land.

Any queries on trees belonging to Northill Parish Council, should be made to the Parish Council Office, PO Box 1694, BEDFORD MK409GP, telephone 07743021131 or email: clerk@northillparishcouncil.gov.uk

Trees on other open spaces may be the responsibility of Central Bedfordshire Council.

Trees situated within the public highway, adjacent to the road or on verges, are generally the responsibility of Central Bedfordshire Council. You can contact them at customerservices@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or telephone 0300 300 8000.

Trees help to add variety to our landscape and provide valuable habitats for many species while providing us with cleaner, filtered air. Northill Parish Council aims to preserve the parish's trees for future generations to enjoy and will replace those found to be dead, dying or dangerous.

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

In maintaining our trees, we will:

Remove dead, dying and dangerous trees
Remove dangerous and damaged limbs

It is our policy to survey all our trees and carry out all recommended works on an annual basis, but if trees require works between these times, members of the public should contact: clerk@northillparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

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

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/Satellite 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

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

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