



Liss Parish Council Tree Management Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This is a policy for the management of trees owned and managed by Liss Parish Council ("LPC"). It is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors, Council employees and contractors to ensure a clear, consistent, and structured approach to the management of trees.
- 1.2 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 LPC has a duty to do all that is reasonably practical to reduce the risk of death or injury to those on LPC land.
- 1.3 Any queries on trees belonging to the LPC should be made to the Parish Office, telephone 01730 892823 or email: clerk-smith@lissparishcouncil.gov.uk
- 1.4 Trees on other open public spaces are likely to be the responsibility of East Hampshire District Council.
- 1.5 Trees situated within the public highway, adjacent to the road or on roadside verges, are generally the responsibility of Hampshire County Council.

2. WORK THAT LISS PARISH COUNCIL WILL CARRY OUT ON COUNCIL OWNED TREES

- 2.1 LPC will ensure that a formal Tree Condition Survey of trees on LPC owned land is carried out by a qualified Arboriculturist on a 2.5 yearly basis (approximately), alternating between summer and winter checks, unless the need arises for more frequent inspections. In line with current best practice, the survey is focused on identifying trees that pose an unacceptable risk. This will include all trees within falling distance of persons, property and areas deemed of high occupancy (for example, trees in the middle of a wooded area with no formal paths will be excluded).
- 2.2 Informal observations will be carried out during the period between the full inspection survey, as appropriate and in high-use areas, including recreation grounds.
- 2.3 The last formal inspection was carried out on **29th January 2024** by Mark Welby, Arboricultural Consultant. A prioritised programme of tree works will be maintained based on this inspection. This will include any reassessments that fall outside the default 2.5 years cycle.
- 2.4 LPC will allocate sufficient resources to ensure that it is able to manage the trees that it owns.
- 2.5 LPC will request that any arborist or tree surgeon carrying out work on trees on Parish Council owned land should provide the Parish Council with a copy of their public liability insurance certificate and ensure that they adhere to the appropriate standards.
- 2.6 Whilst maintaining LPC owned trees, consideration will be given to the impact of tree pruning or felling on local wildlife and tree work will be scheduled to take place in periods where the impact on wildlife will be minimal.
- 2.7 Whilst maintaining LPC owned trees, those highlighted as presenting unacceptable risk will be removed (or surgery carried out to reduce the risk to acceptable levels). Consideration will be given to replacing trees removed with a suitable specimen in the nearest most suitable location.

3. WORK THAT LPC WILL NOT CARRY OUT TO LPC OWNED TREES

- 3.1 LPC has no obligation to carry out the following tree works:
 - 3.1.1 Cut back branches overhanging private property
 - 3.1.2 'Top' trees or remove branches to increase daylight or decrease height in relation to property.
 - 3.1.3 Remove branches or trees affecting views or interfering with TV reception.
 - 3.1.4 Remove branches or trees to prevent falling leaves, honeydew from aphids or other minor debris.
 - 3.1.5 Remove roots from drains or repair root damage to structures, where the tree has not been clearly demonstrated to be the principal cause.
 - 3.1.6 Remove branches or trees to prevent potential root damage to structures.
 - 3.1.7 Remove branches or trees to prevent access to squirrels or birds.

- 3.2 LPC will consider any complaints regarding trees on LPC owned property, taking into consideration its tree management policy and/or advice from a qualified arboriculturist or tree surgeon, as appropriate.
- 3.3 If members of the public wish to carry out any works to LPC owned trees, as detailed above, they should seek permission from the LPC and make their own arrangements using the guidance below.

4. CARRYING OUT TREE WORKS YOURSELF AND PRUNING GUIDANCE

- 4.1 In common law, a property owner can cut back overhanging branches to the boundary of their property. LPC would usually have no objection to property owners carrying out tree work or engaging a contractor at their own expense, provided that:
 - 4.1.1 Access is not gained onto the neighbouring land or to a tree within that land; if access to Parish Council owned land or to a tree on that land is required, permission must be sought.
 - 4.1.2 The tree is not protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), or within the Liss Conservation Area. If the tree is awarded protection, then the appropriate planning procedure must be followed, by submitting an appropriate application to the Local Planning Authority for approval.
 - 4.1.3 Any work carried out is not detrimental to its health or stability; for their own protection members of the public are advised to obtain advice from a qualified arborist or tree surgeon
 - 4.1.4 Tree pruning work, is carried out to an acceptable standard, in accordance with the British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work 3998:1989.
 - 4.1.5 The property owner notifies LPC, before the work begins, of the proposed work and commencement date.
- 4.2 LPC do not carry out works to privately owned trees.
LPC Allotment Tenants are not permitted to cut, prune or fell trees growing on their plots, or the wider allotment gardens, without written consent from LPC. Fruit trees are exempt from requiring consent from LPC for cutting and pruning.

5. ACTION PLAN FOLLOWING DIAGNOSIS OF DISEASE OR FUNGAL ACTIVITY

- 5.1 Trees identified as having a requirement to be re-inspected will have an inspection late Spring or once in full leaf, if there has been no further deterioration, the tree will be re-inspected the following year, and no further action taken.
- 5.2 If a tree has deteriorated since the original inspection, a further inspection will take place late Summer, and full assessment made, and action plan agreed as appropriate.
- 5.3 If a tree is showing clear signs of decay and/or fungal activity, and there is a risk to the general public or property, remedial works or removal, will be carried out dependent upon the situation as assessed.

6. POLICY DECLARATION

- 6.1 **Liss Parish Council:**
 - 6.1.1 Recognises the importance and amenity value of trees and hedgerows within the environment. In no small way do they add variety to the landscape, provide valuable habitats for many species of wildlife and remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and subsequently return oxygen back into the atmosphere. LPC would not support the removal of trees or hedgerows that offer positive amenity unless there is a health and safety risk to the general public or property.
 - 6.1.2 Encourages residents to retain existing trees and hedgerows within the curtilage of their property.
 - 6.1.3 Aims to preserve and increase the number of trees within Liss for future generations to enjoy.

7. REVIEW

- 7.1 This policy will be reviewed five years from the date of adoption by LPC.

Adopted by Liss Parish Council on 16th May 2022 (and updated February 2024).

Date of next tree inspection: Summer 2026.

To be reviewed in 2025.