

MAULDEN PARISH COUNCIL TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Adopted: ???

Next Review Date: Annually

1 INTRODUCTION

This policy identifies Maulden Parish Council's (MPC) approach to the management of trees on land owned by MPC. It is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, MPC staff and Councillors to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of trees.

As landowners, MPC have a duty of care to ensure all the trees on MPC land are kept in an acceptable condition and do not put persons and property at unreasonable risk.

2 TREE INSPECTIONS

Inspections of trees will be carried out by a qualified arboriculturist on all land owned by MPC. The frequency will be a minimum of:

- Trees in high-risk areas – ie in Wingfield Road Recreation Ground, Trilley Fields Play Area, near public footpaths, roads or on allotments – every 2 years.
- Trees in medium risk areas – ie near to a footpath where there is a pedestrian no more than every 30 minutes – every 5 years.
- Trees in low-risk areas – ie near very low-use footpaths or in non-pedestrian areas – every 7 years

3 TREE PRUNING

3.1 Only dead, dying, diseased or dangerous trees will be removed or made safe, whichever is deemed necessary.

3.2 The planned installation of a structure or building, or the presence of an existing structure or building, on either a homeowner's or other third-party's land provides no automatic justification for the excessive reduction or removal of a tree or trees on land for which MPC is responsible. MPC will, however, agree to tree works that are reasonable and represent good arboricultural practice.

3.3 MPC will not:

- Fell or prune trees on MPC-owned land solely to alleviate issues caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena.
- Fell or prune trees for reasons of light.
- Fell or prune trees solely for the reason that they are causing interference with television or satellite reception, unless complainants have taken other measures to improve reception without success and it can be proven that pruning will improve reception.
- Fell or prune trees to improve the view from a property.
- Remove overhanging branches that aren't touching property – however, householders are entitled, at their own expense, to cut back branches from trees owned or managed by MPC that overhang their property provided the correct permissions have been sought in respect of protected trees, and providing no lasting damage is caused to the tree.
- Remove or significantly reduce the size of tree(s) where shading of solar panels is the sole reason for the works.
- Undertake works where there is doubt as to the cause of shading.
- Undertake work on any trees identified and confirmed to be supporting roosting bats until Natural England has been consulted. MPC will then act upon the advice received.
- Carry out work to trees when birds and/or bats are nesting. Where birds are found to be nesting in trees, works will normally be delayed until the end of the nesting season. Where any protected species are found in the vicinity of works, compliance with the relevant legislation and guidance surrounding the protection of the species will be followed.

3.5 MPC will consider works to:

- Ensure there are clear sight lines at junctions and access points, and for traffic signals and street signs.
- Minimise trip hazards.
- Ensure street lighting is not unduly blocked.
- Remove the nuisance of a tree touching a property.
- Reduce interference with telephone wires (pruning only) when requested by the utility company.

In considering any action MPC will take account of the amenity value of the trees concerned.

4 TREE WORKS PROGRAMME

4.1 A prioritised programme of tree work will be maintained based on the regular inspections and with an emphasis on planned rather than reactive tree maintenance. Where necessary, work will be considered in response to reports and complaints in conjunction with recommendations from Central Beds Council's Tree Conservation Officer.

4.2 Consideration will always be given to the impact of any tree pruning or felling on local wildlife. Tree work will be scheduled to take place in periods where the impact on local wildlife is minimised. Opportunities in the vicinity or elsewhere within the parish to provide wildlife habitats and reuse/recycle the waste wood produced will be pursued wherever practicable.

MPC Tree Management Policy (2 pages in total)

Adopted ????

Reviewed & Readopted: ???.

4.3 MPC will ensure all tree works are carried out to the most up-to-date and relevant British Standards. Tree pruning will only be undertaken where there is sound justification for the work. Where pruning is undertaken it will be in accordance with good arboriculture practice to ensure minimum harm to the tree and every effort will be made to ensure the general shape and character of each tree is retained.

In conjunction with the Tree Conservation Officer, at Pendle Borough Council, the Council will not:

MPC will give consideration to any complaints or requests regarding trees on MPC-owned property, taking into account MPC's Tree Management Policy and/or advice from the Central Beds Council's Tree Conservation Officer or a qualified arboriculture expert.