

## BARKING PARISH COUNCIL TREE POLICY

This is a policy for the management of trees owned and managed by Barking 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.

Any queries on trees belonging to Barking Parish Council should be made to the Parish Clerk telephone 01449 677882 or email [pcbarking@gmail.com](mailto:pcbarking@gmail.com)

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

### **Work that Barking Parish Council will carry out on Parish Council Owned Trees.**

In maintaining our trees, we will:

- Remove dead, dying and dangerous trees
- Remove dangerous and damaged limbs
- Regularly inspect the trees both with our Tree Warden and an arboriculturalist

It is our policy to survey trees on a regular basis, but if trees require work under this section, members of the public should contact the Parish Clerk [pcbarking@gmail.com](mailto:pcbarking@gmail.com)

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

All work carried out on private land by Contractors employed by the Parish Council, must seek prior permission before any work commences.

### **Work that Barking Parish Council will NOT carry out to Parish 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 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 principle 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 work carried out as per this section, they should make their own arrangements as described below. The Parish Council reminds residents and land owners that pruning may be carried out on unprotected trees (i.e. not subject to a Tree Preservation Order) where they overhang your property, VERTICALLY in line with your boundary.

## **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. All pruning material must not be thrown back over the boundary, as this could be classed as fly tipping.

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 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.
- Where trees are in public community areas and access is required to carry out pruning, you will require written permission before carrying out such work from the community area.
- 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 Recommendation 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 work to privately owned trees**

### **Tree Removal**

The Parish Council will avoid felling trees unless it is necessary. Tree felling will usually be for the health and safety purposes, or to prevent the spread of serious diseases and pests. The Parish Council reserves the right to fell trees to prevent overcrowding, to improve habitats, to restore landscapes in line with site management or to remove a tree that is inappropriate to its location and has significantly detrimental impact on the appearance or amenity of a site.

### **Emergency Procedures**

If a tree presenting a hazard is observed by a member of the public and is deemed potentially dangerous and constitutes an emergency, then the appropriate authority should be notified to enable a prompt response to be made.

An emergency would be classed as:

- Imminent danger to property or persons
- A blocked road resulting from a fallen tree

For trees located on Barking Tye that are causing imminent danger to property or persons please contact the Parish Clerk 01449 677882 [pcbarking@gmail.com](mailto:pcbarking@gmail.com)

**If you are in doubt as to the rights you may have or actions you are considering taking regarding trees owned or managed by the Parish Council, please contact the Parish Clerk to discuss before proceeding.**