

# Groby Parish Council



Parish Council Office, Village Hall, Leicester Road, Groby, Leicester. LE6 0DQ  
Tel: 0116 2876 985 www.groby.com Email: parishclerk@groby.com

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## Tree Policy

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

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

The majority of trees within the Parish of Groby are in a conservation area or have a tree preservation order on them (TPO). Trees which are covered by preservation orders, or are in the conservation area, have special protection by law. It is an offence to cut down, uproot, prune (roots as well as branches), damage or destroy any protected tree without firstly obtaining planning permission. Failure to obtain prior planning permission could result in prosecution and a fine. If a tree has been removed or destroyed, you may also be required to plant replacements, at your expense.

Parish Council land includes Flaxfield, Beacon Field, QE11, Link Rise, Stamford Park, Marina Park, Quarry Park, Butlers Field, Highfields, Cowpen Spinney, Martinshaw Little Wood, Field Head, Cemetery Extension, Laundon Way, Sacheverell Way, The Mineral Line and all the entrances to and from these areas. Please note this is not a definitive list of Parish Council land.

The Parish Council has a duty of care to visitors when on their land. Not only their health and safety but also of the trees. Therefore, a yearly inspection by an expert Arboriculturist takes place on a 3-year rolling scheme to identify required tree works on an urgent, Priority 1, 2 and 3 basis. Normal tree maintenance works will be carried out in the period of late autumn/early winter and in accordance with the recommendations.

For trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order, Groby Parish Council will seek planning permission prior to any work being carried out on these trees.

### Parish Council owned trees

Groby Parish Council will:

- Remove dead, dying and dangerous trees.
- Remove dangerous and damaged limbs.
- Where possible, replant new trees to replace those that have been removed.

Groby Parish Council have no obligation to:

- Cut back branches overhanging private property unless it is within 2 metres of a building.
- '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 or trees to prevent access to squirrels or birds.

## **Complaints**

Complaints should, in the first instant, be directed to the Parish Clerk.

Complaints will be compared with the current expert inspection reports and the Council will respond in accordance with the recommendations of that report. If the recommendation of the report is "No Action Required" the Parish Council will consider the matter closed, unless a further request is submitted.

If the complainant does not accept the evidence of the current report, and to avoid unfounded complaints resulting in cost to the council taxpayer, Groby Parish Council will commission an individual tree inspection from an independent arboriculturist, the payment of which must be met, in full, by the complainant, only to be refunded if works are subsequently found to be required.

If a complaint is received and the tree is covered by a TPO the complainant will have to pay any cost of a planning application.

## **Carrying out tree works**

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:

- The tree is not situated in a Conservation area or protected by a Tree Preservation Order.
- 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, that it is carried out to an acceptable standard, in accordance with the British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work 3998:2010.

It is therefore advisable to contact Groby Parish Council in advance of any works on Parish Council owned trees being carried out.

## **Tree Replacement**

When a tree is removed because it is dangerous, dead, or dying, Groby Parish Council will replace it with another tree of a suitable species, at the discretion of the Estates department.

## **Contact Numbers:**

Groby Parish Council / Parish Clerk: 0116 2876 985

Hinckley and Bosworth - Development Services: 01455 238 141

Leicestershire County Council: 0116 305 5000