



Groby Parish Council

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Tree Maintenance Policy

- (i) Groby Parish Council engage the services of an expert arboriculturist to identify the appropriate inspections of the general trees in the ownership of the Council to be reviewed on a 3 year rolling inspection programme and an annual budget is set to address works identified by the expert consultant, on a priority 1, 2 and 3 basis
- (ii) Complaints to be compared, in the first instance with current expert inspection reports and the Council to respond in accordance with the recommendations of the report
- (iii) Once the Parish Council has responded in accordance with the recommendations in the current expert inspection report and that recommendation is "No Action Required" the Parish Council will consider the matter closed unless a further request is submitted in accordance with (iv) below
- (iv) To avoid unfounded complaints resulting in cost to the council tax payer, individual inspections will be commissioned from an appropriately qualified arboriculturist where the complainant does not accept the evidence of the current report. However, before any individual report is commissioned the complainant must accompany their complaint and request for an updated report with the deposit of £100.00, which will only be refunded if the complaint is proven to be materially correct in that urgent or non-routine works that have not been identified in the report are found to be required in that particular instance. In order to assist you with roles & responsibilities of the various parties you will be given a copy of 'Trees in Focus – practical care & management
- (v) Councillors are not able to carry out tree inspections, as this is beyond their area of expertise and could potentially place Councillors at risk or the council in a position of potential liability resulting from a councillor's involvement
- (vi) Normal tree maintenance works will be carried out in the period of late autumn/early winter and in accordance with a recommended management scheme.
- (vii) Where complaints are received that relate to trees or bushes that form part of an approved development planting scheme, the complaint will be referred in the first instance to the Borough Council Planning Department, for comment
- (viii) Complaints may be received on trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). In such cases planning permission will be required for any works on these trees. Planning permission will be sought by the Parish Council when works are identified as part of a maintenance programme. However, if a complaint is received in this regard the complainant will have to pay any cost of a planning application.