

## **Elvetham Heath Parish Council Tree Management Policy**

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all trees on land owned and/or managed by Elvetham Heath Parish Council.

It is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors and the Council employees to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of the trees.

### **Policy**

- As a landowner, the council has a duty of care to ensure that all trees on its land are kept in good condition. It will endeavour to maintain them in a healthy state and take such action as it deems necessary to protect the safety of the public and nearby property.
- All trees will be inspected by a qualified tree surgeon. These inspections will be carried out on a three-yearly basis although trees are monitored regularly. It should be noted that only dead, diseased or dangerous trees will be removed or made safe.
- A prioritised programme of tree work will be maintained based on the inspections. Consideration will be given to the impact of any tree pruning or felling on local wildlife and non-emergency tree work will be scheduled so that the impact wildlife will be minimised.
- The council will allocate sufficient resources to ensure that it is able to manage the trees under its responsibility.
- The council will ensure that the tree surgeons are fully qualified and have sufficient public liability insurance. Attempts will be made by the tree surgeons to notify affected residents prior to the commencement of the works.
- Tree work will only be carried out where there is sound justification for the work.
- The Council will consider any complaint requests regarding trees on council owned land, taking into account its tree policy and advice from a qualified tree surgeon.

The council will not fell or prune trees on council owned land:

- a) Solely to alleviate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena
- b) For reasons of light;
- c) For the reason that trees are causing problems with television or satellite reception, unless complainants have taken all other measures to improve reception without success and it can be proven that pruning will improve reception. In considering any action, the council will take account of the amenity value of the tree(s) concerned.