

London Colney Parish Council's Tree and Woodland Strategy

The aims and management prescriptions outlined within this strategy have been produced within the context of LCPC's Tree Strategy Review (2017). This includes the following policies relevant to trees and woodlands:

Policy 1

- a) The Council will ensure its trees and woodlands have up to date management plans in place and encourage the production of plans for woods.
- b) The Council will ensure that its trees and woodlands are managed as a long term sustainable resource for the public, for education and for nature conservation and Biodiversity and consistent with the guidelines for safeguarding European Protected species as produced by the Forestry Commission
- c) The Council will manage trees and woodlands to fulfil its obligation as owners to ensure safety of people and property whilst remembering that trees and woodlands are natural places and the level of acceptable risk must reflect this.

Policy 2

The Council will maintain the highest possible standards of tree care and management by:

- a) Surveying its tree stock on an up to 3 year cycle & maintaining survey records,
- b) Working to standards set within BS 3998 (2010) and subsequent revisions,
- c) Adopting best practice according to all relevant legislation and research,
- d) Avoiding work that results in the unnecessary loss of wildlife habitat,
- e) Endeavouring to keep people and property safe, and,
- f) Discouraging practices by other agencies that threaten the establishment of new trees as well as existing trees.

Policy 3

Work on trees will normally be carried out according to the following criteria:

- a) Dead/dying trees shall be removed where they may be a safety hazard to the public or adjoining property.*
- b) Trees shall be made safe or replaced as appropriate, if they are a health and safety risk due to:
 - i. disease,
 - ii. storm damage,
 - iii. growth defects,
 - iv. loss of root anchorage,
 - v. loss of structural integrity,
 - vi. persistent branch fall, and,
 - vii. major deadwood.

*Dead and fallen wood will be left on site and, where safe to do so, dead trees left standing for the benefit of biodiversity and to provide valuable habitat.

Policy 4

The removal of trees or heavy lopping will be resisted unless there are sound arboriculture or other reasons, (e.g. disease, structural damage, or a clearly Identified threat to an ancient monument).

The Council will not normally carry out felling or potentially disfiguring forms of tree work in order to improve the reception of television signals or for CCTV operation.

Policy 5

When dealing with complaints about daylight obstruction by trees, the Council will limit its agreement to requests for tree works to cases where the tree canopy is coming into physical contact with buildings. Overhanging growth will only be removed if it is obstructing access.