



HULLBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

(Adopted 10th June 2024)

1. Introduction

This is a policy for the management of trees owned and maintained by Hullbridge Parish Council, it is intended to act as a point of reference for the Councillors, Council employees and members of the public to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of trees.

A principle of English Common and Statute Law is that the land tree owners have a duty of care to visitors, residents, passers by and indeed trespassers when on their land.

This means the Parish Council has a responsibility to take reasonable steps to reduce risk of death or injury to those on Parish Council Land.

Any queries on trees belonging to Hullbridge Parish Council should be made to the Parish Office 01702 232038 or email: clerk@hullbridgepc.co.uk

Trees on other open spaces may be the responsibility of landowners, Rochford District Council or Essex County Council. Trees generally situated within the public highway, adjacent to the road or on roadside verges, are generally the responsibility of Essex County Council.

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

2. Work that Hullbridge Parish Council will carry out on Council owned/maintained trees.

The Parish Council will ensure that inspections of trees are carried out by a qualified tree surgeon on all land owned by the Parish Council.

The last tree survey was carried out in 2021 and is next due in 2024. A prioritised programme of tree works will be maintained based on this application.

The Parish Council will allocate sufficient resources to ensure that it is able to manage the trees that it owns maintains.

The Parish Council will request any tree surgeon carrying out any work on Parish Council land should provide the office a copy of their public liability insurance certificate and that they adhere to the appropriate standards.

The Parish Council will aim to maintain a relationship with the Tree Officer at Rochford District Council, and check if any work taking place needs a Planning Application, 5-day Order and/or constitutes immediate remedial work.

Whilst maintaining Council's trees, consideration will be given to the impact of tree pruning or felling on local wildlife and tree work will be scheduled in periods where impact on wildlife will be minimal.

Whilst maintaining Council's trees, Council will:

- Remove dead, dying, diseased and dangerous trees.
- Remove dangerous and damaged limbs.

3. Work that Hullbridge Parish Council will not carry out to Council owned trees.

Council has no obligation to carry out the following works:

- Cut back branches overhanging private property.
- 'Top' trees or remove branches to increase daylight or decrease in 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, excrement from birds and/or animals, 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 nearly touching buildings, walls, roofs, fences, etc.
- Remove branches or trees to prevent access to squirrels or birds.

The Parish Council will consider any complaints regarding trees on Council owned property, taking into account its Tree Management Policy and/or advice from a qualified tree surgeon. If members of the public would like tree works carried out as per this section, they should make their own arrangements as described below.

4. Carrying out tree works yourself and pruning guidance.

In Common Law, a property owner can cut back overhanging branches to the boundary of their 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:

- Access is not gained onto the neighbouring land or to a tree within that land: if access to Council's land or to a tree on that land is required, permission must be granted via the Parish Council office.
- The tree is not situated in the Conservation Area or protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).
- Any other work 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 Recommendations for tree work.
- Before work commences, the property owner notifies the Parish Council office of the proposed work and commencement date.

The Parish Council has no jurisdiction over trees on private land and does not carry out works on privately owned trees.