

Appendix A

Highways Maintenance Management Plan Policy Update for non-essential tree works.

Introduction

Highway trees are public assets, playing a key role in the conservation of Hampshire's biodiversity as well as enhancing the environment for residents. The aim of this policy is to assist residents where a highway tree is causing a seasonal nuisance beyond what might be reasonably expected from a highway tree.

Where tree works to address seasonal nuisance that are not included within routine maintenance within the Highways Maintenance Management Plan (HMMP) are requested, this policy outlines the process for such requests, the extent of works and the mechanism for implementing this, with the aim of providing a more permissive Policy whilst providing clarity of the process for County Council staff, elected members and residents.

Policy Statement

The County Council will routinely carry out remedial action for any trees, hedges and shrubs on the highway which are regarded as an actionable nuisance, represent a hazard or require remedial work to make good damage or decay or deformed growth.

In addition to, and separate from, the routine maintenance mentioned above, where seasonal nuisance from a highway tree causes significant concern to a resident and the concerns are deemed reasonable by the arboricultural manager, non-essential works can be carried out provided that:

- i. The works are not detrimental to the health or form of the highway tree/s.
- ii. The works do not create a need for ongoing, cyclical pruning.
- iii. The resident pays the full cost of the required work on a cost recovery basis plus an administration fee.

To help determine whether requested works are proportionate or not, other factors will be considered including, but not limited to, amenity value, landscape value, comparison with nearby trees and mitigation opportunities.

The final decision on carrying out non-essential tree works will normally be made by the Arboriculture Manager, in consultation with the Assistant Director (Highways, Traffic and Engineering) as required, with due regard to the points above.

Some trees are protected by law, for example having a Tree Preservation Order, or being located in a conservation area, so works cannot be carried out without the formal written consent of the local district or borough council, which must be obtained before works will be considered under this Policy. The County Council will make relevant applications as part of the works, the full cost of which will be paid by the resident requesting the works.

If approval is given, and once any costs are received by the County Council, the County Council will carry out the requested works. The works carried out will be the minimum necessary to address a specific nuisance only.

Scope

The policy covers the maintenance of all highway trees.

Additional Information

This policy forms part of the Highways Maintenance Management Plan (HMMP) and supplements policy HW4.