

Tree Policy

Adopted by Council on 2 October 2017

East Hampshire is one of the most wooded districts in the county, with approximately 17% of its area covered by trees. Trees make a significant contribution to its fine natural qualities and we take our responsibility to protect and enhance these qualities seriously. Trees help to add variety to our landscape, improve the quality of our air and provide valuable habitats for many species. Rowlands Castle Parish Council (“the Council”) aims to preserve the trees of Rowlands Castle for future generations to enjoy.

The Council recognises it has a duty of care to ensure that all trees growing on its land (“the trees”) are maintained in a safe condition and will take all reasonable precautions to maintain the safety of the public and property in respect of them. The trees will be inspected in accordance with this Policy and any remedial work required will be carried out as soon as is reasonably practicable, taking into account the nature of the work, any likely risk to people or property and funding constraints.

Inspection Schedule

A survey of all the trees will be carried out by an Arboricultural Consultant (“the Consultant”) appointed by the Council about every 3 to 5 years. Intervening annual inspections will be carried out by the Tree Warden (appointed annually by the Council) taking into account any recommendations made by the Consultant in their survey.

All inspections of trees will be documented and reported to the Council as soon as is practicable.

Completion of recommended work

The Consultant’s survey will be considered by the Council following receipt. All recommended work identified and subsequently approved by the Council will be undertaken as prioritised in the survey, subject to any constraints eg Tree Preservation Orders or Conservation Areas

Any issues identified by the Tree Warden during intervening inspections will be reported at the next Council Meeting. If deemed necessary, remedial work will be implemented, subject to prompt authorisation by Council.

Should a member of the public report a problem with a Council-owned tree, this will be investigated by the Tree Warden or Consultant as appropriate. Any recommendations will be considered at a subsequent Council meeting unless circumstances require more urgent attention in which case the Clerk can instigate appropriate action. The Council is under no obligation to respond to requests to cut back branches of trees overhanging private property or where pruning may improve light, reception or views.

Other trees in the Parish

The Council does not accept responsibility for the maintenance or care of any trees growing on land that is not owned by the Council.