

# Ovington Parish Council

## Tree Policy

### SCOPE

This policy relates to the felling or pruning of trees growing on land owned by Ovington Parish Council.

### AIMS

- To protect the public from risk posed by trees growing on land owned by the Parish Council.
- To conserve and promote biodiversity<sup>1</sup> and visual amenity.

### INSPECTIONS

The Parish Council will arrange for walk-over, ground-level visual checks of the trees on each of the sites it owns at least once a year, looking for evidence of safety hazards. Inspections will focus on trees that are likely to pose the greatest risk, for example larger trees and those within falling distance of buildings, playgrounds, roads and well-used footpaths.

### REPORTS

Where a member of the public reports an allegedly dangerous tree, the Parish Council will arrange for it to be inspected as soon as possible.

### ADVICE

Where an inspection reveals evidence of risk, the Parish Council will seek advice from a qualified tree surgeon. On advice, the Parish Council may decide to monitor the condition and safety of a tree rather than felling or pruning it.

### FELLING

The Parish Council may decide that felling is necessary for the following reasons:

- for proven safety reasons, including trees that are likely to cause harm due to death, serious disease or structural weakness;
- to prevent the spread of harmful diseases or pests;
- as part of a site-specific plan to promote biodiversity or visual amenity.

This work will be carried out by a specialist contractor appointed by the Parish Council. Other cases are unlikely to be approved but will be considered on their merit.

### PRUNING

The Parish Council may decide that pruning is necessary for the following reasons:

- for the three reasons stated above
- to remove branches obstructing roads or footpaths
- to promote the health of the tree.

This work will be carried out by a specialist contractor appointed by the Parish Council.

### REPLANTING

Where a tree has been felled the Parish Council will replant one or more trees on its land, close to the original if practicable.

### CONTACT DETAILS

For all issues relating to trees on land owned by Ovington Parish Council:

Tel: 01661 835771 Email: [ovingtonparishcouncil@btinternet.com](mailto:ovingtonparishcouncil@btinternet.com)

For all issues and requests for work to trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders or adjacent to a highway, contact Northumberland County Council: Tel: 01661 520005

Email: [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

(Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 Section 40: imposes a biodiversity duty requiring all public bodies to have regard to biodiversity when carrying out their functions.)