



Carlyon Parish Council

Trethella Cottage, Ruan Lanihorne, Truro TR2 5NU
Tel: 07983 710385 Email clerk@carlyon-pc.gov.uk
www.carlyon-pc.gov.uk

Tree Management Policy

Trees add variety to our landscape and provide valuable habitats for many species. Carlyon Parish Council aims to preserve its trees for future generations to enjoy. The parish council will allocate sufficient resources to ensure that it is able to manage trees on land it owns or manages.

Purpose

This policy outlines Carlyon Parish Council's approach to the management of trees on land both owned and maintained by the parish council. It is intended to act as a point of reference for members of the public, councillors and council employees to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of trees.

Scope

This policy covers any trees on land that is either owned or managed by the parish council. It does not cover work to bushes and/or shrubs.

Any queries to trees on land owned or managed by the parish council should be made to the clerk – clerk@carlyon-pc.gov.uk or by calling 07983 710385.

Risk Assessment

The parish council has a responsibility to take reasonable steps to manage its trees to reduce the risk of injury or death to those on parish council land. It is not possible to eliminate all risks from trees, however there are often indications that a tree may be in decline.

The parish council arranges for an independent consultant who is a member of the Agricultural Association to undertake a comprehensive tree safety and condition survey annually. Each tree is individually risk assessed.

Tree Maintenance

A prioritised programme of tree work will be maintained based on the inspections and with an emphasis on planned rather than reactive tree maintenance.

Tree maintenance schedules are drawn up in accordance with the Risk Assessment and quotes are sought for any work required.

The parish council will also give consideration to any complaints or requests for maintenance from the public regarding trees on parish council owned or managed land, taking into account this tree management policy and advice from a qualified tree surgeon.

If a parish council owned or managed tree is inspected and found to be in such a condition that it poses a high risk to people or property and is considered to be an emergency situation, instruction will be given to the parish council's current tree contractor to make the tree safe as soon as practically possible.

If a tree is identified as requiring action, but the risk to the public is not immediate, then the tree will be made safe depending on the degree of risk identified at the time of the inspection.

Tree Works

Tree works may include, but are not limited to, pruning, felling, removal of branches or roots.

Tree works will take place

- If there are dead, dying or dangerous trees and branches that are found to be a danger to public safety;
- When trees or branches are creating an unreasonable obstruction to a public highway, highways signage, public rights of way or access to property;
- Where a tree is causing an unacceptable trip hazard on the public highway, public right of way or access to a property;
- Where a tree is proven beyond reasonable doubt to be the cause of serious structural damage to buildings, as identified by an independent competent professional assessor.

Tree works may take place outside of the maintenance schedule

- When a tree is deemed by the parish council to be in an inappropriate species for its situation;
- To ensure that a streetlight can perform to its design specification without being unduly blocked by the presence of trees;
- Where a tree/branch is touching, or almost touching, a dwelling – we aim to give a minimum of 1.5m clearance in these situation;
- To maintain historic vistas or in the interest of preservation of heritage structures;
- When a tree gives rise to justifiable fears about risk of crime, or has provided access and/or cover for criminal activity;
- When a tree/branch restricts grounds maintenance operations;

- To a tree which needs formative pruning to shape or train it during the early years;
- Where thinning of trees will benefit adjacent specimens or those of more favourable species;
- Where a tree is of a species which is known to ultimately outgrow its location and in doing so unreasonably restricts the use of the area;
- Where a tree restricts repairs and maintenance of property;
- To protect or enhance biodiversity;
- To improve the aesthetics of the designated landscape.

Tree works will not take place

- Just because a tree is considered to be “to big” or “too tall”, or to cut back branches of a healthy tree overhanging private property;
- To remove or reduce any of the following, other than in extreme circumstances: leaves, sticky sap, blossom, tree pollen, bird droppings, falling fruit/berries/nuts;
- To remove or reduce incidence of perceived pests such as bees, wasps or other wildlife;
- To prevent roots entering a drain or pipe that is already broken or damaged;
- Where the tree has not been clearly demonstrated to be the principal cause of damage to structures;
- To improve natural light or the view from a property;
- To prevent interference with TV or satellite TV installation/reception or to prevent the shading of solar panels;

Carlyon Parish Council has no authority to intervene in a dispute between neighbours where non-parish council owned trees are causing a nuisance or damage to property.

Replanting

For every tree the parish council has to fell, at least one other tree will be replanted somewhere in the parish at a location to be agreed. If any newly planted tree dies within 5 years, it will be replaced.

Adopted 17 June 2025