

Ravenfield Parish Council

TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Introduction:

- This policy outlines the management of trees owned and maintained by Ravenfield Parish Council. It serves as a reference for the public, Councillors, Council employees, and contractors, ensuring a clear and consistent approach to tree management.
- In accordance with English Common and Statute Law, landowners, including the Parish Council, have a duty of care to ensure the safety of visitors, residents, and passers-by. The Council is committed to taking all reasonable steps to minimise risks associated with trees on its land.
- Any queries regarding trees under the Parish Council's responsibility should be directed to the Parish Clerk via email at clerk@ravenfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk or by telephone at **07462 468050**.
- Trees located on other public spaces may fall under the responsibility of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.
- Trees growing within the public highway, including roadside verges, are generally managed by the relevant highway authority.

Tree Maintenance by Ravenfield Parish Council:

- Once a year, tree maintenance will be conducted to ensure a 2m clearance from the boundary of properties and trees on Jubilee Field.
- Trees showing signs of disease, decay, or structural instability will be closely monitored and managed in accordance with the Council's action plan.
- Adequate resources will be allocated to maintain the health and safety of trees under the Council's stewardship.
- Contractors engaged in tree work on Council land must provide proof of valid public liability insurance and adhere to industry safety standards.
- Consideration will be given to wildlife habitats when scheduling tree maintenance to minimise ecological impact.
- Any trees that are removed due to disease, structural instability, or other safety concerns will be replaced with a suitable species where appropriate.

Tree Maintenance Not Undertaken by The Parish Council

The Council is not obligated to carry out the following works on trees under its ownership:

- Cutting back branches overhanging private property.
- Reducing tree height or removing branches to improve natural light to properties.
- Removing trees or branches to enhance views or improve TV or satellite reception.
- Clearing leaves, sap, or other natural debris.
- Addressing tree root issues unless it is determined that the tree is the primary cause of structural damage.
- Pruning or removing trees to prevent wildlife access to properties.

Complaints or concerns regarding Council-owned trees will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, with input from qualified tree specialists where necessary.

If residents wish to undertake pruning of Council-owned trees overhanging their property, they must first seek written permission from the Parish Council.

Guidance for Tree Work on Private Property:

- Property owners have the right to trim branches that overhang their boundary, provided they do not trespass onto Council land or harm the tree's health or stability.
- If a tree is protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), the necessary permissions must be obtained from the relevant planning authority before any work is undertaken.
- Any tree work should comply with British Standard BS 3998:2010 (Tree Work – Recommendations).
- The Parish Council must be notified before any pruning of Council-owned trees is carried out by private individuals.
- The Parish Council does not conduct work on privately owned trees.

Action Plan for Diseased Or Damaged Trees:

- Trees identified for monitoring will be reassessed in late spring. If no further deterioration is observed, a follow-up inspection will take place the following year.
- If a tree shows signs of worsening condition, additional inspections will be scheduled to determine the necessary course of action.
- Trees posing a significant risk to public safety due to disease or structural weakness will either be treated or removed, depending on expert recommendations.

Commitment to Tree Preservation:

Ravenfield Parish Council acknowledges the environmental, aesthetic, and ecological value of trees and hedgerows. The Council will:

- Support the retention of trees and hedgerows that contribute positively to the landscape unless they pose a significant health and safety risk.
- Encourage residents to protect and maintain trees within their own properties.
- Work to preserve and enhance the local tree population for future generations.