

Pilning & Severn Beach Parish Council

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Tree Management Policy

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1. Introduction

This is a policy for the management of trees owned and maintained by Pilning & Severn Beach Parish Council, it is intended to act as a point of reference for the Councillors, Council employees and members of the public to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of trees

Principle in law

A principle of English Common and Statute Law is that the land tree owners have a duty of care to visitors, residents, passers-by and indeed trespassers when on their land. This means the Parish Council has a responsibility to take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of death or injury to those on Parish Council land.

Contact

Any queries on trees belonging to Pilning & Severn Beach Parish Council should be made to the Parish Clerk,
telephone 01454 631499 or 07562 691164
email: clerk@pilningsevernbeach-pc.gov.uk

Other trees

Trees on other open spaces may be the responsibility of landowners, or South Gloucestershire Council. Trees generally situated within the public highway, adjacent to the road or on roadside verges, are generally the responsibility of South Gloucestershire Council.

Reason for a tree policy

Trees help to add a variety to our landscape and provide valuable habitats for many species while providing us with cleaner, filtered air. Pilning & Severn Beach Parish Council aims to preserve its trees for future generations to enjoy.

Status

To the best of its knowledge Pilning & Severn Beach Parish Council does not have trees situated in a conservation area or have any Tree Preservation Orders on its trees.

2. Works undertaken

Inspections

The Parish Council will ensure that inspections of trees are carried out by a qualified tree surgeon on all land owned by the Parish Council, every three years.

The inspection will be carried out by an independent qualified tree surgeon who will not be permitted to bid for any work to the trees to ensure an independent report.

Budget

The Parish Council will allocate sufficient resources to ensure that it is able to manage the trees that it owns or maintains.

Insurance

The Parish Council will request any tree surgeon carrying out any work on Parish Council land should provide the office a copy of their public liability insurance certificate and that they adhere to the appropriate standards.

South Gloucestershire Council Arboreal Services

The Parish Council will consult with the Tree Officer(s) at South Gloucestershire Council as required to check if any work taking place needs

- a Planning Application,
- 5-day Order
- constitutes immediate remedial work.

Potential wildlife impact

Whilst maintaining our trees, consideration will be given to the impact of tree pruning or felling on local wildlife and tree work will be scheduled in periods where impact on wildlife will be minimal.

Whilst maintaining the Parish Council trees, we will:

- Remove dead, dying, diseased and dangerous trees
- Remove dangerous and damaged limbs

3. Works not undertaken

Pilning & Severn Beach Parish Council has no obligation to carry out the following works:

- Cut back branches overhanging private property
- 'Top' trees or remove branches to increase daylight or decrease in height in relation to property
- Remove branches or trees affecting views or interfering with TV reception
- Remove branches or trees to prevent falling leaves, honeydew from aphids or other minor debris
- Remove roots from drains or repair root damage to structures where the tree has not been clearly demonstrated to be the principal cause
- Remove branches or trees to prevent potential root damage to structures
- Remove branches or trees nearly touching buildings, walls, roofs, fences, etc.
- Remove branches or trees to prevent access to squirrels or birds

Complaints

The Parish Council will consider any complaints regarding trees on Council owned property, in respect of this tree management policy and/or advice from a qualified tree surgeon.

If members of the public would like tree works carried out as per this section, they should make their own arrangements as described below.

4. Carrying out tree works yourself

Common Law

In Common Law, a property owner can cut back overhanging branches to the boundary of their property. The Parish Council would usually have no objection to property owners carrying out tree work or engaging a contractor at their own expense provided that:

- Access is not gained onto the neighbouring land or to a tree within that land: if access to Parish Council land or to a tree on that land is required, permission must be granted via the Parish Clerk and if necessary, by resolution of the full Council.
- The tree is not situated in the Conservation Area or protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

- Any other work to a tree is not detrimental to its health or stability; for their own protection members of the public are advised to obtain advice from a qualified tree surgeon
- For tree pruning work, whoever does the work, it is carried out to an acceptable standard, in accordance with the British Standard Recommendations for tree work.
- The property owner notifies the office (before the work begins) of the proposed work and commencement date.

The Parish Council does not carry out works to privately owned trees.