

Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council

TREE MONITORING POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Boughton Monchelsea Parish Council and BMAT recognise that they have a duty of care to ensure that all trees growing on land belonging to them (that is not leased out to third parties or the responsibility of a management company) are maintained in a safe condition.

Both the Parish Council and BMAT will take all reasonable precautions to maintain the safety of the public and of property on land owned and maintained by them. Trees will be inspected in accordance with the schedule set out below and any remedial work required will be carried out as soon as reasonably practicable taking into account the nature of the work to be undertaken and the likely danger to the public.

Unless there is an immediate risk of injury or damage to property, consent will be obtained before carrying out work to any tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order or within a conservation area.

TREES INCLUDED IN POLICY

All trees growing on Parish Council and BMAT owned land (that is not leased out to third parties or the responsibility of a management company to maintain). This land is as follows

Parish Council land

The village green

Haste Hill Road allotments

Langley Park allotments

BMAT land

Walk Meadow

Salts Wood

Firmins Field

Lyewood – BNG land

Quarry Wood

Furfield Park open space

Pested Bars landscaping strip

Langley Park ransom strip

Land between Cliff Hill & Brishing Lane (non-public but need to inspect trees on edge of public highway)

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INSPECTION SCHEDULE

- A two yearly inspection will be carried out jointly by at least two of the Parish Councillors / BMAT trustees who have attended the 1 day LANTRA Basic Tree Survey and Inspection course. This inspection will be a visual inspection from ground level only. If any concerns are found during the inspection a further inspection will be arranged with a qualified tree surgeon. On the advice of the tree surgeon further specialist advice may be sought from a qualified arboriculturist
- Additional tree inspections will be carried out following any extreme weather event where it is considered that safety of any trees may have been compromised.
- Additional tree inspections will be carried out following any concerns reported by members of the public

RECORD OF INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

Details of all tree inspections will be recorded on tree inspection form BMPC-TI1 and any concerns regarding individual trees or clusters of trees will be noted.

REMEDIAL WORKS

- All remedial work identified by the tree surgeon / arboriculturist will be undertaken in accordance with their advice, including advice on how urgently the work should be carried out
- If any problems are considered to present an imminent risk to public safety, arrangements will be made for a contractor to attend site immediately or as soon as practically possible, for the area to be made safe
- Any problems identified that are not deemed urgent by the tree surgeon / arboriculturist will be reported to the next meeting of the Parish Council / BMAT. If deemed appropriate, estimates will be obtained for the remedial work to be undertaken and such estimates will be considered by the Parish Council / BMAT at the following meeting

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ACTION IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC REQUESTS FOR TREE WORKS

Tree condition	Action
Dangerous to people or property	Arrange for necessary work as a priority
Dead, diseased, dying, causing structural damage to buildings	Arrange for necessary work following advice from insurers and / or tree expert
Non-urgent requests	Assess against cost, available resources, benefit and / or detrimental impact on the tree
Overhanging private property	Arrange inspection with property owner and (dependent on TPO or conservation area status) give permission for them to remove overhanging branches at their cost, to the boundary of their property only. Full scope of work to be agreed at time of inspection and confirmed in writing
Other issues, including : • Excessive leaf / fruit / blossom / twig fall • Complaints regarding allergies (pollen / seed), insect sap, bird droppings or bees / wasp nest) • Perceived risk of damage from a tree • Root ingress into underground drainage (roots will generally enter drains that are already damaged / evidence required) • Tree deemed too large • Satellite and / or TV reception • Interference with telephone lines (responsibility of service provider)	No action