

## Vigo Parish Council Risk Assessment and Tree Management Policy

Vigo Parish Council's tree management policy acknowledges the benefits that its trees bring to the Village while taking all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of residents, visitors and property.

### Benefits trees bring to Vigo

Create a pleasant green, rural environment for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Create an extensive wildlife environment for many and varied species of flora and fauna

Provides some shelter from adverse weather conditions , such as strong winds and high rainfall.

Contribute, in a small but useful way, to reduction of carbon dioxide and reduction of Global Warming

Risk Area	Location of trees	Hazard posed by trees	Possible outcome	Action to reduce risk
• High	Adjacent to roadways Adjacent to footpaths Adjacent to Village green Adjacent to play areas	Shed branches /limbs Fall over	Injury to persons in vicinity Damage to property Damage to vehicles	Regular visual inspection of these areas Rolling programme of inspection of trees identified as possibly hazardous, with suitable, reasonable action taken to reduce risk
• Medium	Woodland areas with natural footpaths that are used infrequently	Shed branches /limbs Fall over	Damage to person	The low level of use reduces the risk in these areas. Occasional visual inspections carried out. Reasonable action taken as required
• Low	Inaccessible woodland areas, where brambles and undergrowth prevent access	Shed branches /limbs Fall over	Damage to persons extremely unlikely, as they will not be able to enter	Generally, no action would be required. The 'unmanaged' woodland will be of benefit wildlife.

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The individual risk of death attributable to trees is 1 in 10million, this is 10 times less than the threshold of one death in one million per year that the HSE says people regard as insignificant or trivial in their daily lives. (Common Sense Risk Management of Trees, National Tree Safety Group, Pub. Forestry Commission Dec 2011)

The actions carried out by Vigo Parish Council will be reasonable, proportionate and cost effective.

Where hazards are identified in high risk areas, these will be assessed by the tree warden/s and/or Village Contractor, who is also a Tree surgeon. In some instances the expert opinion of an arboricultural expert will also be sought.

One of the following actions will be taken:

- Monitor, if immediate action not required.
- Carry out remedial work to reduce the hazard
- Fell the tree (this action only will be taken when there is no other reasonable action that could be taken)

## How risks are identified and by whom

- Regular, informal, visual inspections of High and Medium risk areas
- Rolling programme biennial inspection of trees identified as potentially hazardous in high risk areas.

## Residents

Contact Clerk, Tree Warden/s and Village contractor when they observe problems with trees.

## Councillors

- Look out for tree damage/ problems whilst out and about.
- Carry out quarterly observations of the Village, which includes informal, visual inspection of trees – such as overhanging or broken branches etc.

## Tree Warden/s

- Carry out formal inspection of trees in high risk areas on rolling programme.
- Trees identified as possibly hazardous, in high risk areas will be inspected at least biennially.

## Village Contractor and Qualified Tree Surgeon

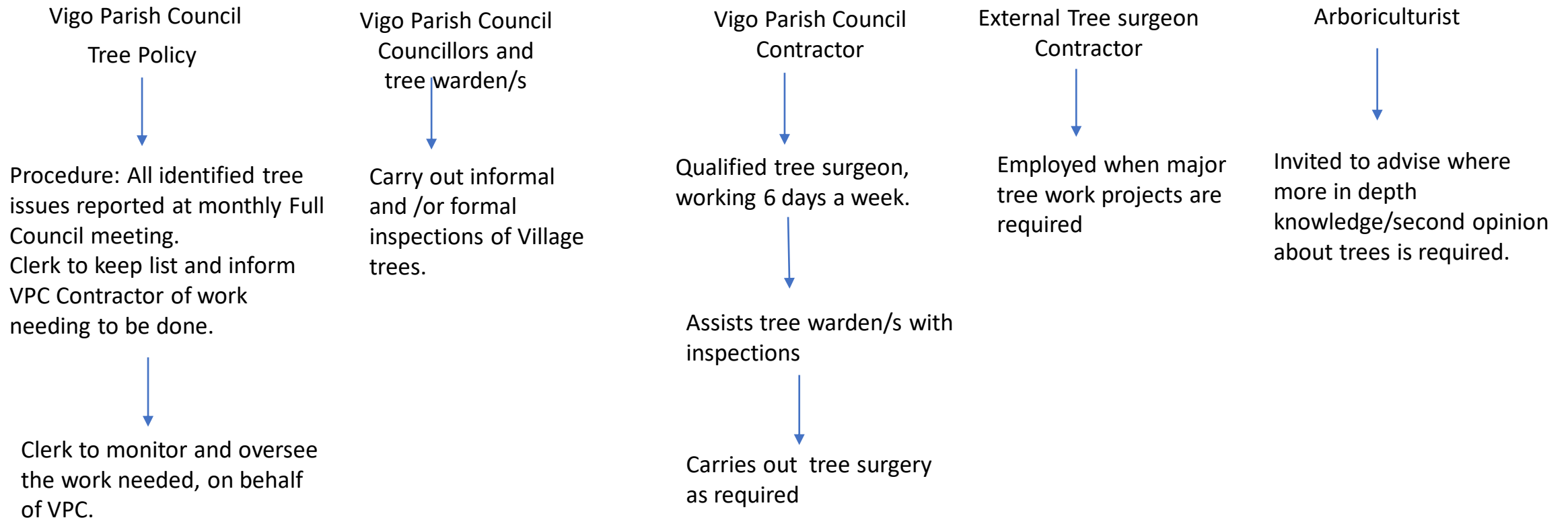
- Look out for tree damage/ problems daily whilst carrying out other duties.
- Carry out inspections of trees identified by other parties.
- Assist tree warden with rolling programme of observations of trees, prioritising high risk areas.

All people listed live in Vigo and take a proactive role.

In addition Residents draw tree issues to the attention of the Parish Clerk, Councillors, tree wardens or Tree surgeon

The Parish Clerk records all identified tree information and liaises with the Tree surgeon to identify the work required

## Responsibilities and Procedures



### What records are to be kept?

- Clerk's records of identified trees and works schedules
- Councillors quarterly check list
- Tree warden and surgeon – Report date and outcome of formal inspections
- Tree surgeon – regular feed back to Clerk of tree work carried out .

### Ref:

Common Sense Risk Management of Trees, National Tree Safety Group, Pub. Forestry Commission Dec 2011