



Woodland Management and Tree Policy

Approved at Parish Annual Meeting
July 2021

Sustainability

The Parish Council has agreed to continue the covenant with the land to maintain and ensure the continued management of the coppice and other woodlands for the benefit of all and to establish a plan to secure the woodland for perpetuity.

The type of woodland present in Vigo is, with the correct management, self-perpetuating. Should, however, any replanting or restocking be required then consideration will be given to the existing ecology and sustainability in choosing such replanting.

Vigo Parish Council will consider replacing any trees that are felled as part of the ongoing woodland management programme, unless there is sound justification not to do so. Replacement trees will not be planted on a “one for one” basis however, unless felt to be appropriate. The type and number of replacement trees will be considered on a case by case basis

Best Practice

The VPC will by regular inspection and appraisal endeavour to maintain the woods and trees in a safe condition to ensure the Safety of People and Property.

The extent of Vigo means that particular emphasis will be placed at the interface o/f woods with property, paths and roads.

Best practice now favours a risk-based system of tree management relying on regular inspections prioritised by potential hazards.

VPC will always take reasonable action upon robust arboreal advice from suitably qualified persons.

VPC will continue with the conventions and practices established by the VRA and VVT as previous owners of the now Parish Land.

Amenity and Street Trees.

The safety of amenity and street trees will be as above.

Where it is reasonable, further planting and or replacement trees will be considered and will be subject to the following: -

1. Consultation with (a) residents; (b) Planning Authority; (c) Highway Authority where appropriate
2. The funding for such replacements will be by (a) external sources: (b) specific allocated budgets.

Residents requests.

VPC will investigate Bona Fide residents' requests for works regarding trees or shrubs, action will only be taken if there is arboreal justification and compliance with this policy.

Planning Applications.

Residents should note it is the responsibility of the resident to undertake investigation and appropriate engineering steps to ensure that any nearby trees do not affect the structural integrity of the proposed structure, both now and in the foreseeable future. Residents should note that Vigo Parish Council is not responsible for investigating such matters and shall have no liability for damage to the proposed works or consequential damaged caused by trees or tree growth.

Policy: The Parish Council will provide a risk-based system of tree management relying on a programme of regular inspection prioritised by potential hazard.

Policy: The Parish Council will take action to reduce the threats posed by hazardous trees. Where possible remedial work will be undertaken to reduce the risk. Where remedial work is not possible the tree will be felled.

Policy: The Parish Council will cut back trees where they overhang properties or property boundaries.

Policy: The Parish Council will maintain its trees to provide the statutory clearance for pedestrians and vehicles over footways and roads.

Policy: The Parish Council will ensure that branches shall be reduced back where they are touching streetlights, road signs and other street furniture, so as to maintain vehicular and pedestrian safety on the Highways.

Policy: The Parish Council will not fell or reduce trees solely for the reason that structures such as driveways, footways, patios, lawns etc. are being disrupted

Policy: The Parish Council will only remove or prune Parish Council owned trees that are proven to be causing damage to the property if it is the most appropriate solution. Subsidence claims will always be referred to the Parish Council insurers. The onus is on the property owner to prove (via their insurance company) that the Parish Council owned trees are implicated in the subsidence, and this would usually be provided via an in-depth arboricultural report commissioned by the property owner or their insurance company.

Policy: The Parish Council will not fell or prune Parish Council owned trees solely for the reason that they are reducing light levels into properties or are casting shade over gardens, unless exceptional extenuating circumstances can be proved. Where there are extenuating circumstances, these will be considered by Full Council on a case by case basis.

Policy: The Parish Council will not fell or prune Parish Council owned trees solely for the reason that they are causing interference with television and satellite reception or with solar panels, unless exceptional extenuating circumstances can be proved. Where there are extenuating circumstances, these will be considered by Full Council on a case by case basis.

Policy: The Parish Council will not fell or prune Parish Council owned trees solely to alleviate problems caused by natural and / or seasonal phenomena.

Policy: The Parish Council will endeavour to maintain high standards of tree work by ensuring that all tree works are carried out to BS 3998 British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work (1989) (and any subsequent revisions). When tree surgery is undertaken, every effort will also be made to ensure the general shape and character of each tree is retained.

Policy: The Parish Council will assess the wildlife value of trees, under its control and will use its best endeavours to ensure that if any tree is the habitat of a protected species, it will be retained or mitigation measures are agreed in conjunction with the relevant nature conservation agencies.

Policy: Genuine emergencies will receive IMMEDIATE response.