

# NORTH FERRIBY PARISH COUNCIL



## Tree Management Policy

### 1. Introduction

This document explains how North Ferriby Parish Council manages the risks associated with the trees growing on its land and how requests for tree work are dealt with. It also lays out how decisions for new tree planting are made.

North Ferriby Parish Council recognises the importance of trees and the role they play in the natural environment. The Council, as a reasonable and prudent landowner, also recognises that while no tree can be guaranteed to be safe it has a legal duty of care to the general public to ensure that, so far as practicable, tree-related risks on its land are kept to an acceptable level.

### 2. Scope of the Policy

North Ferriby Parish Council is responsible for the following areas of land which contain trees, and the management of these areas is specified below:-

Land managed by the Playing Field Committee

- North Ferriby Playing Field

Land managed by the Environment Committee

- Riverside Walkway
- Reed Pond
- Coronation Garden
- Copse at the Anne Turner Memorial Allotments

This policy does not apply to trees located on verges, which is land owned by East Riding of Yorkshire Council Highways, or on land owned by any other organisation or individual.

### 3. Tree Management Strategy

- 3.1 The Council aims to take a proactive and systematic approach to tree management in order to both conserve and enhance its tree stock and the amenity value of its land. Its tree management strategy aims to be proportionate and attempts to maintain an appropriate balance between the real risks and the benefits that trees offer.
- 3.2 The Council takes reasonable precautions to maintain the safety of the public and property both on its own land and in adjacent areas where the falling distance of trees for which it is responsible extends beyond its boundaries, for example on to public highways.
- 3.3 Ground-based walkthrough tree assessments are carried out by a consultant arboriculturalist at no more than 42 month intervals with any necessary remedial work being carried out by an approved Tree Surgeon as soon as reasonably practicable, taking into account the level of perceived risk, the scope of the work required, and the resources available.
- 3.4 Trees in well-used areas (such as those on the playing field; along heavily trafficked public highways; and those near footpaths on the Riverside Walkway) may be accorded higher priority for remedial action than those trees in lesser-used areas (such as in the wooded areas of the Riverside Walkway).
- 3.5 Interim inspections of higher priority trees are undertaken as necessary. In the case of any tree identified as presenting a potential hazard, either immediate remedial action will be

taken, or its condition will be closely monitored through interim inspections as recommended by a consultant arboriculturalist. The results of all tree inspections are documented, with records being lodged with the Parish Clerk.

- 36 Depending on the severity of the forecast for a storm event, the Council may restrict access to certain areas. The website [windfinder.com](http://windfinder.com) can provide useful information about predicted wind strength in the area.
- 37 Following a storm event, an intermediate inspection will be carried out using the check sheet contained in Appendix 1.
- 38 Intermediate inspections will also be carried out if any concerns are raised about the health of a particular tree and depending on the severity of the issue found, the Parish Clerk can instruct a Tree Surgeon as per the Financial Regulations. If thought necessary, immediate steps to restrict the area will be taken.
- 39 The Council avoids felling trees unless absolutely necessary. This will predominately be for health and safety reasons; to prevent the spread of serious tree diseases and pests; or to remove poor specimens. The Council does, however, reserve the right to fell trees in order to prevent overcrowding; to improve habitats; or to restore landscapes in line with site management objectives. Trees may also be removed where they are inappropriate to their location; have a significantly detrimental impact on the appearance or amenity of a site; or the costs of their maintenance are disproportionate to any identified benefits.

#### 4. New Tree Planting

Wherever possible, where existing mature trees have had to be removed due to disease or damage, a new tree will be planted. This will be of a suitable type for the environment and species (or variants of them) native to the U.K or the near continent will generally be preferred.

Tree planting in new locations will have regard to the surroundings. Consideration will be given to the proximity of buildings or structure that might be overshadowed or could suffer from root damage from newly planted trees. Where planting is in proximity to other trees or habitat, such planting will have regard to the existing ecology so as to enhance rather than damage this.

The Council will also work with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and look to enhance the street scene by planting trees on the verges. All locations and species will be approved by the ERYC Trees Team prior to planting.

#### 5. Complaints and Requests

Requests or complaints about trees on Council owned land overhanging neighbouring properties will be handled by the appropriate Committee.

In general, the Council does not prune or remove trees to prevent the nuisance of overhanging branches onto private property. Members of the public have a Common Law right to cut back any branches encroaching onto their property but only from the point where the branch crosses over their boundary. Under Common Law, any wood cut from the tree should be offered back to the tree owner. Where the wood is not wanted, the person undertaking the work is responsible for ensuring that any wood or cuttings are disposed of appropriately and at their own cost. For clarity ***North Ferriby Parish Council does not require the return of the wood or cuttings. Please do not place, return or tip this on to Council land.***

Appendix 1 – Basic Visual Tree Check

This form is to be completed following any storm event, a concern raised by a resident or prior to any emergency tree work.

When carrying out inspection, consider the roots, trunk and crown of the tree. Record anything unusual, particularly any of the following key problems:-

Root failure



Hanging branches



A crack or split into the wood, beyond the bark



Decay fungi fruiting bodies



Also look for and record any unusual colour changes on branches, dead or drying leaves, or areas with premature leaf loss

Date of inspection .....

Site Name .....

Location / What3Words .....

Comments / Notes .....

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Signature ..... Print .....