



# ST LEONARDS & ST IVES PARISH COUNCIL

## Tree Policy

### Policy No: 18

St Leonards & St Ives Parish Council  
Tree Policy – adopted 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 Minute 212 (Review annually)  
Next review May 2024

The over arching aims of the proposed Tree Policy is to ensure a consistent approach to the management of trees on Parish Council lands. It will provide and maintain a healthy tree stock that provides environmental benefits and add to the quality of the landscape. It also defines parameters for the management of trees.

#### Policy Statements

<b>A</b>	Established trees will be retained and managed with a view to providing a sustainable, high quality, safe, tree population.
<b>B</b>	An ongoing replacement / re-planting programme will be maintained, together with the identification of new sites for trees to counter inevitable losses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trees selected will be appropriate for the site in which they are planted, with consideration given to their eventual size and shape.</li></ul>
<b>C</b>	Trees will normally only be removed where there are sound arboricultural, environmental or risk related reasons to do so. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dead, dying or dangerous.</li><li>• Dangerous or high risk.</li><li>• Proven to be causing significant structural damage.</li><li>• Inappropriate species for their location.</li></ul>
<b>D</b>	Where removal of trees is unavoidable because of an overriding need to develop

	land to provide essential services, due regard will be given to the need to minimise impact on the local tree stock and landscape.
<b>F</b>	<p>Trees will not be pruned or removed by the Parish to alleviate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mess caused by insects or birds.</li> <li>• Interference with satellite dish reception.</li> <li>• Excessive leaf fall; problems associated with pollen.</li> <li>• Where a tree is perceived to be too large.</li> <li>• Blockage of light.</li> <li>• Because someone is willing to pay for the removal and replacement of a tree.</li> </ul>
<b>G</b>	<p>Trees shall only be considered for removal on the grounds of subsidence where there is clear evidence that the tree is significantly contributing to the damage.</p> <p>Subsidence claims made against the Council will be forwarded to the Council's Insurers for assessment. No dialogue will be entered into.</p> <p>The Claimant will need to provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan, showing location of property and trees</li> <li>• Age of property</li> <li>• Depth and type of foundations</li> <li>• Details of relevant property extensions</li> <li>• Drainage details and location of other services</li> <li>• Extent of damage</li> <li>• Tree root data</li> <li>• Soil and subsoil analysis</li> <li>• Seasonal movement monitoring</li> <li>• Evidence of live roots of the same family or species found below the level of the foundation depth.</li> <li>• Soil moisture tests at varying depths to below foundation level.</li> <li>• Evidence of desiccated soil.</li> <li>• A geotechnical survey including trial pits and soil profiles.</li> <li>• A structural report providing evidence of actual damage including crack monitoring records.</li> <li>• Details of other vegetation within the theoretical zone of influence that is not easily visible from a public place.</li> <li>• Level distortion survey</li> </ul>
<b>H</b>	All Council owned trees shall be inspected according to their agreed inspection regimes every 5 years for roads,
<b>I</b>	The Council will undertake a cyclical pruning regime of its trees requiring such treatment. The practice of pollarding will cease except where it is needed to maintain old pollards or create veteran trees.
<b>K</b>	Where trees of significant value are highlighted for removal local residents directly affected will be informed via letter. It will not be standard practice to consult with residents for works that are considered to be routine maintenance works, or where due to Health and Safety implications removal needs to be undertaken quickly.

	The default position is not to fell every tree with a defect but to seek to undertake corrective surgery wherever possible, if viable. It is recognised that on occasion it will be necessary to make 'unpopular' decisions which may bring the Council into conflict with residents. However, public health and safety must be of paramount importance and the Council should defend its actions on this basis.
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<b>M</b>	Funding will determine the extent of works possible in any particular year. In any event, work defined as emergency/urgent must be undertaken to protect the community and the authority. Other work will be generally carried out based on priorities determined through the inspection regime.
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<b>N</b>	It shall be policy to review this document every 5 years to ensure that it remains current and stays abreast of changes in legislation and the industry.
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<b>O</b>	The Council will keep abreast of all relevant pests and diseases related to trees and will follow agreed industry biosecurity protocols.
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<b>P</b>	Before instructing any work a check will be made to ensure that there is no Tree Preservation Order in force
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**Any applications for work will be judged on their own merits and professional advice will be sought where necessary.**