

## **LANDSCAPE SERVICES**

### **Tree Pruning/Removal Guidelines**

- 1** There is a presumption against the lopping, topping or removal of trees that are healthy, of good form and are structurally sound.

**Always providing that nothing in the following shall imply precedence over any Tree Preservation Order, restrictions in any Conservation Area or exemption from felling licences, remedial felling works will only be considered when:-**

- a. The trees interfere with sightlines, roads, footpaths, cycle ways, road signs or street lights.
- b. The trees are dead/dying/diseased or where a risk assessment has identified evidence pointing to imminent failure.
- c. Branches are touching buildings, power lines, telephone lines or other structures.
- d. There is obtrusive root growth.
- e. There are broken or hung-up branches.
- f. Fallen/Uprooted trees.
- g. Where actionable nuisance can be proved e.g. subsidence.
- h. Previous pruning regimes require being continued e.g. periodic reductions, pollarding.
- i. They are clearly of a size/species inappropriate to location.
- j. Thinning young and developing trees is necessary.
- k. They restrict authorised construction repairs or maintenance approved by the Council.

- 2** **The Council will not carry out reduction or felling where it is not in the best interests of the tree's health. The exceptions will be to fulfil the Councils obligation to ensure safety of people, livestock and property. No action will be carried out where Council trees are responsible for any of the following (each or combination of):-**

- a. Seasonal phenomena e.g. sap, pollen, leaves, seeds, bird droppings, flowers, nuts and/or berries.
- b. TV and satellite interference or poor mobile phone reception where the tree(s) in question form an important part of the landscape and/or where it is evident that they pre-date any affected residence or property.
- c. Obscuring a view from or casting shadow on private property where the tree(s) in question are appropriate for the area, form an important part of the landscape and pre-date any affected residence or property.
- d. Shade and dampness leading to the growth of algae or moss on paths or other structures in private property.

### **3 Consultation and Notification**

Before considering any major tree works on a particular site, the Service will check with:-

- a. Area Planning Officer for the status of a Conservation Area or Tree Preservation Order.
- b. Forestry Commission for a Felling Licence.

Where significant tree works such as thinning, tree removal and reduction on a particular site are proposed the following parties will be advised prior to work commencing:-

- a. Residents in immediate vicinity.
- b. Community Council.
- c. Ward Members.

Where major tree works are required as a matter of urgency, for safety reasons, notification will be sent to Community Councils and Ward Members. The Area Planning Officer will be notified if within a Conservation Area or a Tree Preservation Order exists.