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Category of Tree Related Enquiry	Policy/Standard Tree pruning and tree work	Response Timescale
<p>Information request- Why has a council tree been felled?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Policy: Tree Felling</p> <p>The Council will fell trees where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tree is dead, dying or diseased • A tree has been proven to be causing subsidence • The removal of a tree would benefit surrounding trees It is the requirement of a management, regeneration or development plan <p>Customer Advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree removal is regrettable, but necessary under a number of circumstances. The decision to remove a tree is not taken lightly. Trees are usually felled because it is best option to reduce the risk of harm to an acceptable level (e.g. dead, dying or diseased trees). 	<p>Clarification of council policy about trees / general enquiries.</p> <p>The enquiry will be answered within 14 working days of receipt. Customers can receive an immediate response by searching for the relevant stated policy on the council's web site. If the enquirer requires further research we will inform the customer within 14 working days and indicate a timescale for any response as appropriate.</p>

Information request – Why is/was a tree pruned?	<p style="text-align: center;">Policy: Tree Pruning</p> <p>The Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake work to trees owned or managed by the Council to maintain a minimum 5.5 metres height clearance over the carriageway (associated with a street, road or highway). • Undertake work to trees owned or managed by the Council to maintain clear lines of sight for traffic and pedestrians at junctions and access points (associated with a street, road or highway). • Undertake work to trees owned or managed by the Council to maintain clear lines of sight for traffic signals and street signage (associated with a street, road or highway). • Undertake work to trees owned or managed by the Council to ensure that street lights are not unduly blocked by the presence of trees. • Undertake work to trees owned or managed by the Council to maintain a minimum 2.1 metres height clearance over a footpath associated with a street, road or highway. Any works necessary to prevent an obstruction to the width of a footpath associated with the highway due to the presence of a Council owned tree will be considered on a case-by- case basis. • Maintain pollarded street trees by re-pollarding on a cycle between two and five years or more depending on the species and growth habits of the tree • Only create new pollards where there is no other viable management option 	<p>Clarification of council policy about trees / general enquiries</p> <p>The enquiry will be answered within 14 working days of receipt. Customers can receive an immediate response by searching for the relevant stated policy on the council’s web site. If the enquirer requires further research we will inform the customer within 14 working days and indicate a timescale for any response as appropriate.</p>

<p>Information request – Why are tree stumps left in the verge or pavement?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Policy : Stump grinding</p> <p>The council will carry out stump grinding where necessary to enable trees to be replanted or to remove a significant hazard.</p> <p>Customer Advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stump grinding is the practice of removing a tree stump to below ground level by mechanical means. Where replacement replanting is desirable such as in highway verges, stumps will be ground out. Where stump removal is not necessary or possible tree stumps will be removed close to ground level so not to leave a trip hazard. 	<p>Clarification of council policy about trees / general enquiries</p> <p>The enquiry will be answered within 14 working days of receipt. Customers can receive an immediate response by searching for the relevant stated policy on the council’s web site. If the enquirer requires further research we will inform the customer within 14 working days and indicate a timescale for any response as appropriate.</p>
<p>Information Request - What happens to the cut material?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Policy: Re-cycling</p> <p>The Council will make the best use of arisings created from required tree work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timber will be sold Firewood will be sold Woodchip will be sold or used within the Council for footpath dressing or mulch on amenity shrub beds <p>Customer Advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Firewood and woodchip are both for sale to the public. Please contact the Parks department for details. 	

<p>Information Request – Do you harm wildlife?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Policy: Birds, bats, badgers and other wildlife</p> <p>The council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out inspections of trees prior to tree works for nesting birds, taking particular care during the nesting period of March – August. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 It is illegal to disturb nesting birds • Carry out inspections of trees for bat roosts or areas of land for badger sets, likely to be disturbed by tree or woodland works and seek expert advice from relevant organisations or the Council Ecologist • Try to avoid damage to any wildlife or habitat wherever possible and look for alternative work solutions <p>Customer Advice:</p> <p>Birds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, is the principle legislation protecting birds. The Acts make it an offence to kill, injure or take any wild bird and to take, damage or destroy any nest that is either in use or being built. To comply with the Acts the council’s arboricultural teams will check trees for nesting birds during the nesting period (March – August) and take appropriate measures to prevent disturbance prior to the commencement of routine works. These measures may mean delaying the works until young birds have flown. If, despite best efforts, a nest is found after work has started, a buffer area around the nest will be created and the tree returned to once the young birds have flown. <p>Bats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (Schedule 5) and the EU Directive Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. These make it illegal to intentionally or deliberately kill, injure or capture bats; deliberately disturb bats, whether in a roost or not; or to damage, destroy or obstruct a bat roost. Given that trees can be significant hosts to bat roosts inspections will precede works where bat roosts are suspected. This is 	<p>Clarification of council policy about trees / general enquiries</p> <p>The enquiry will be answered within 14 working days of receipt. Customers can receive an immediate response by searching for the relevant stated policy on the council’s web site. If the enquirer requires further research we will inform the customer within 14 working days and indicate a timescale for any response as appropriate.</p>
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<p>Information Request – does ivy kill trees/should it be removed?</p>	<p>likely but not exclusively to occur in park or woodland trees. Where necessary the Tree Services Unit will seek expert advice.</p> <p>Badgers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 which makes it an offence to wilfully kill, injure or take a badger; to interfere with a sett by damaging or obstructing it or by disturbing a badger when it is occupying a sett, recklessly, or with intent. Where necessary the council will seek expert advice. <p style="text-align: center;">Policy: Ivy on trees</p> <p>The council will seek to retain an acceptable level of ivy on trees where the inspection for decay or defects is not compromised</p> <p>Customer Advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council acknowledges the considerable value of ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>) as a habitat and food source for wildlife. Unless ivy has established on young or weak trees, where it may compete for water and nutrients and restrict healthy growth, it causes little harm. However, where ivy has taken hold on mature trees, especially those close to roads and public areas, judgements must be made on its retention based on the health of the tree and the possibility of cavities or defects being hidden from view. In these situations removal of ivy may be deemed necessary for risk management purposes. 	<p>Clarification of council policy about trees / general enquiries</p> <p>The enquiry will be answered within 14 working days of receipt. Customers can receive an immediate response by searching for the relevant stated policy on the council's web site. If the enquirer requires further research we will inform the customer within 14 working days and indicate a timescale for any response as appropriate.</p>
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<p>Information Request – Roots are damaging the pavement or causing a trip hazard</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Policy: Tree Roots</p> <p>The Council accepts that a reduced standard of regularity of surfacing may be acceptable. Where not acceptable the council will seek to explore engineering options to reduce trip hazards before root pruning or tree removal.</p> <p>Customer Advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will follow guidance published in “well-maintained Highways code of practice for Highway management” This guidance relates to trees and the highway and suggests that pavements are not required to have perfect surfaces: <p><i>“9.6.1: Trees are important for amenity and nature conservation reasons and should be preserved”</i></p> <p><i>“9.6.4: Extensive root growth from larger trees can cause significant damage to the surface of footways, particularly in urban areas. A risk assessment should therefore be undertaken with specialist arboricultural advice on the most appropriate course of action, if possible to avoid harm to the tree. In these circumstances, it may be difficult for authorities to reconcile their responsibilities for surface regularity, with wider environmental considerations and a reduced standard of regularity may be acceptable.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The roots of trees exploit the soil in various ways dependent on species and local conditions. Direct root action can deform the surfaces of footpaths, roads or other light structures. To constitute a trip hazard the deformation will be assessed by Highways. Where a hazard exists and is attributable to tree roots engineering options will be explored before root pruning or tree removal is undertaken. Indirect root action is more often associated with the drying of clay subsoils during prolonged periods of dry weather and the subsequent downward movement of ground resulting in subsidence damage of buildings. However, subsidence can also be caused by leaking or collapsed drains, particularly if the subsoil under a building contains high proportions of sand, and or inadequate foundations for the soil type or proximity of vegetation, including trees. All insurance claims for suspected tree related subsidence will be dealt with in accordance with the council’s subsidence policy. 	<p>Clarification of council policy about trees / general enquiries</p> <p>The enquiry will be answered within 14 working days of receipt. Customers can receive an immediate response by searching for the relevant stated policy on the council’s web site. If the enquirer requires further research we will inform the customer within 14 working days and indicate a timescale for any response as appropriate.</p>
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