

Tree Policy

Erewash Borough Council

The borough of Erewash own and manage many trees within its parks, open spaces, nature reserves and cemeteries. We aim to manage our trees in a safe and sustainable manner in order to promote high visual and wildlife amenity. This will be achieved by surveying and monitoring all council owned trees on a regular basis. Any work to trees will be recommended in the interest of public safety and good arboricultural practice. Trees will be allowed to develop their mature natural form, unless there is justification for its pruning or removal.

Erewash Borough Council value the mature trees that add character to our landscape and will endeavour to manage them sympathetically as the health of the tree allows. However as these trees reach the end of their life it may be necessary to fell them. To ensure the area retains the expansive tree cover it enjoys today, we are committed to planting trees throughout the borough for future generations to enjoy.

The Council also manages trees along the highway on behalf of Derbyshire County Council. Streets that have been identified as needing regular tree maintenance have been included in a cyclical programme of works. Where the council receives complaints regarding street trees, the Tree Officer will assess the nature of the complaint and whether any remedial action is appropriate.

The Council will persevere to:-

- Remove dangerous branches and trees as soon as possible;
- Remove dead or dying branches and trees where it may become a hazard to people or property within one month;
- Remove branches or trees where there is evidence of an actionable legal nuisance being caused to buildings within three months.

The Council has no obligation to carry out the following works:

- Prune back or remove overhanging branches other than to abate any legal action;
- Prune or fell trees to improve the light or view to a property;
- Systematically reduce the crown of trees.

However, trees that may cause a nuisance to residential or business properties, may, at the Tree Officer's discretion, and with consultation with the ward member, be subject to maintenance, or removal subject to replacement elsewhere. There is a small fund for these general tree works, which will be allocated on the following priority basis:

- The degree of nuisance.
- The number of residents affected.
- Resident's personal circumstances including equality impact assessment.
- Availability of funds.

All requests will be assessed individually and any remedial works will reflect good arboricultural practice.

The timescales for the work when agreed by the Tree Officer is as follows:-

- Trees in an area of high public use within three months.
- Trees in an area of limited public use within six months.

If the Council do not agree to carry out the work requested, the owner of the property may prune back any overhanging branches to the boundary line, as laid out in Common Law. However, the owner should check whether the tree is subject to a Tree Preservation Order or is within a Conservation Area before commencing.

If the owner of the property wishes, and subject to the agreement of the Tree Officer, they may carry out any other works to council owned trees by engaging a contractor at their own expense.