

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

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Clerk: Sally Thurston



Tree Management Policy

As the owner and manager of trees on their land FTC has a statutory duty of care under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Occupiers Liability Acts Page 2 of 4 1954 and 1984 to ensure so far as is reasonably practicable its trees are safe and not a danger to the public.

Trees and vegetation within the town are owned and managed and maintained by three main authorities: Oxfordshire County Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and Faringdon Town Council (FTC).

This Tree Management Policy aims to guide the management of trees owned and maintained by FTC (FTC). FTC recognise that trees provide a wide variety of benefits to society, providing vital habitats and food for wildlife, windbreaks in open areas, reduce pollution by cleaning the air and prevent flooding. FTC endeavours to source the best outcome for any required work, which is always informed by a tree survey.

Tree Management

FTC trees are inspected on a five-year cycle. When inspection is due FTC instructs an arborist to undertake a tree survey. A report is produced, identifying the need for any actions to be taken. If it is not practical for FTC ground staff to undertake the work FTC seeks a qualified contractor to implement the necessary, repair works. Generally, if a tree owned and maintained by FTC looks unwell, appears different to normal or it is obvious that some work might be required, FTC will seek guidance and advice from a qualified arborist. To reduce the risk of threat from dangerous trees, emergency works may be undertaken, for example on trees that have fallen or are at risk of falling or have snapped branches because of extreme weather. If you see a tree on FTC land that you feel is dangerous please call us on 01367 240281 and let us know. We will inspect the tree as a matter of urgency and take the necessary action to remove the danger as quickly as we can.

Requests we can help with:

- Hazardous trees
- Dead, dying or dangerous trees and branches that are or likely to be a danger public safety.
- Trees or branches proven or likely to cause damage to a dwelling or garage.
- Trees affecting public access/highway safety. Trees or branches creating obstruction to a public highway, public right of way or access to property.
- Damage to highway surfaces
- Damage to buildings
- Tree pruning - Overhanging tree branches
- Suspected structural damage
- To protect or enhance biodiversity.
- To improve the aesthetics of the designed landscape.

Please note that we will not carry out works on trees in the following situations:

- Prevention of animal and insect droppings.
- Shade prevention or obstruction of view
- Branches overhanging neighbouring property where no real risk to people or building has been confirmed
- Interference with television/satellite/internet signals. FTC will not fell council owned trees solely because they are causing interference with television and satellite reception. Pruning might be considered after an arboriculturally assessment has taken place and the potential work will not cause detriment to the health of the tree
- Size of the trees considered too large by resident
- Prevention or clearance of seasonal occurrences such as leaf, flower, seed, blossom, pollen, fruit fall, cones
- Roots entering the drains or adjacent garden
- To allow construction of new access or driveway to property

Telephone wires and electric cables

It is the service providers' responsibility to maintain your service. If you have any concerns, please contact your provider. This is non-chargeable.

If tree roots are damaging telephone lines and interrupting the service, the service company usually can arrange for a tree cutter or arborist to attend site to inspect the tree(s). If trees are touching overhead lines, the providers do not guarantee that they will trim/cut the tree(s). The provider will usually instruct an arborist to attend site to inspect the tree(s) and agree what work will be undertaken.

Neighbouring Properties

FTC welcomes discussion with concerned residents living nearby FTC owned trees. We will not normally consider tree removal except where there is a risk to public health which cannot otherwise be resolved.

Over Hanging Branches:

FTC will cut back tree branches from a dwelling and garage where they touch windows, walls, roofs, or gutters. This will ensure that damage is avoided. We attempt to maintain a 1.5m clearance from these structures.

Overhanging branches not causing damage to a dwelling, garage, fence or wall will not be pruned back as it is the responsibility of the property owner to cut them back to their boundary if they perceive these to be a nuisance.

Neighbours have a legal right to trim overhanging branches, only from within their property boundaries. It is advised that neighbours contact FTC before attempting to undertake any work. Failing to do so might lead to an incorrect work that might damage and affect the appearance of the tree.

Root damage:

If you believe there is root damage to your property from an FTC owned tree(s) please contact the Town Clerk. It is often possible to repair paths to take account of adjacent trees and tree roots. Where roots protrude, they can be root pruned up to the boundary, or the path re-laid around the tree.

Contact details

If you need to report a problem with a tree under FTC responsibility, please contact the Town Clerk 01367 240281 or email office@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk