

IRTHLINGBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL



Council Tree Policy

Policy

- The council wish to see people enjoying the presence of trees and receiving the benefits that trees bring to the environment and landscape.

The Survey Process

- The council's tree surgeon will survey all the council's trees to provide a risk assessment of each tree at the point of inspection and to identify a programme of works aimed at striking a balance between the mitigation of future risks to safety, while recognising the benefits and beauty that trees bring to the environment and landscape.
- In addition, the survey should identify any trees which create a 'real risk' of causing property damage and evaluate the appropriate pruning and maintenance regime to mitigate this risk.

Managing its trees

- Birds
We will not prune or fell a council tree to remove or reduce bird droppings from trees, or remove bird droppings from private land. We will not undertake tree or hedging works in the vicinity of nesting birds unless risk to life is present.
- Blossom
We will not prune or fell a council owned tree to remove or reduce blossom from trees or remove fallen blossom from private land.
- Leaves
We will not prune or fell a council owned tree to remove or reduce leaf fall or remove fallen leaves from private property, unless there are special circumstances where this is desirable. The loss of leaves is part of the natural cycle and cannot be avoided by pruning.
- Fruit/berries/nuts
We will not prune or fell a council owned tree to remove or reduce the nuisance of fruit/berries or nuts, or remove such fallen fruit from private land. However, where

fallen fruit is leading to a significant anti-social behaviour problem, we will consider measures to reduce the problem.

- Light

We will not prune or fell a council owned tree to improve natural light in a property. Generally, in law there is no general right to light.

Common Law Right

The public has a Common Law right to remove (abate) the nuisance associated with trees encroaching onto their property.

The following advice is given if you wish to exercise your Common Law right with respect to encroaching trees;

- You can only consider removing those parts of the tree from the point where they cut cross the boundary of your property. You have no legal right to cut or remove any part of the tree that does not overhang your property;
- You are strongly advised to consult a professional tree surgeon for guidance on how best to prune back encroaching trees, unless the works are trivial meaning you could do the works with hand secateurs or similar.
- Any trees that have Tree Preservation Orders or are in a Conservation Area need consent before any works can be carried out.

Removal of wood

You are not allowed to remove wood (or other parts of a tree) from parks or open space owned by the Council without consent.

Un-authorized persons are not allowed to use a chainsaw or axe of any type in parks or open spaces.