



TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

“No tree can be guaranteed to be safe. As long as we retain trees, we cannot achieve zero risk. A disproportionate response to the actual risks posed by trees leads to unnecessary intervention, particularly alongside roads and public places. Disproportionately responding to risk itself runs the risk of diminishing the landscape and depriving the whole community of the enjoyment of trees and their wider benefits”¹.

Common Sense Risk Management of Trees (National Tree Safety Group)

Sprowston Town Council is committed to protecting its arboriculture assets through the positive management of trees.

The Council arranges tree surveys resulting in the identification of trees that require arboriculture work and those requiring felling.

Council has a duty of care to manage its trees and that duty is governed primarily by factors affecting the safety of the public and property, the health of the tree and the risk of spread of disease.

To ensure the efficient management of tree stock, the Council has adopted the following tree management policy:

1. All Council-owned trees will be inspected annually for safety (subject to clause 2 below).
2. Low risk trees such as *saplings, copse trees*, any trees below 5m in height, and/or with limbs narrower than 25mm, or trunks below 75mm in diameter will ordinarily be assessed within groups, but may not be specifically recorded unless they require work or felling. This approach also applies to trees in infrequently used areas, where risk of death or serious injury is extremely low.
3. Inspections will be conducted by suitably qualified and reputable arboricultural specialists.

¹ Common Sense Risk Management of Trees (Nation Tree Safety Group) <https://ntsgroup.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/FCMS025.pdf>

4. Any maintenance work recommended by the inspection report will be put in-hand within a timescale commensurate with the risk rating of the identified hazard.
5. A visual inspection of Council-owned trees will be conducted (by Town Council officers) after any winds strong enough to damage tree stock.
6. Where requests for works are not warranted under our primary duties for tree works, they will not ordinarily be entertained at public cost.
7. Any enquiries or report of concerns in relation to apparent dead, dying or dangerous trees will be followed by site inspection by a Town Council officer and/or suitably qualified tree specialist, as may be appropriate to the nature of the concern.
8. In the event that a Council-owned tree requires to be felled; Council will endeavour to replace it with a specimen appropriate to the area. Should the felled tree's location be unsuitable for a replacement tree, a suitable alternative location will be identified.