

ICKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A local council for the peoples of Icklesham, Winchelsea, Winchelsea Beach and Rye Harbour

Tree Management Policy

Icklesham Parish Council have produced this policy to ensure that all of the trees within the Parish are managed consistently and maintained where necessary.

Trees have many economic and social benefits, they also contribute to the aesthetics of our landscapes and to maintaining environments rich in biodiversity.

Our trees are in a number of public open spaces and we have the responsibility of ensuring that these do not pose a danger to the public or anyone's property. We recognise that although trees are generally a positive feature, if not managed appropriately, they not only have the potential to become a nuisance but can be the cause of serious injury or even death.

We have our tree stock inspected every three years, the most recent survey was carried out in April 2022.

The areas with trees inclusive in the survey are as follows-

Rye Harbour

Jubilee Playing Field, Winchelsea

Cricket Field Allotments, Winchelsea

Pear Tree Marsh Allotments, Winchelsea

Harbour Field, Winchelsea Beach

Highford Allotments, Icklesham

Manor Close Triangle, Icklesham

Icklesham Recreation Ground

Our tree maintenance work will be conducted as a result of information gathered during our tree surveys every three years, however, impromptu tree maintenance will always form a key element of overall tree maintenance operations and normally originates from the following:

- reports from residents and the public;
- reports from Council Officers arising from their routine inspections
- enquires from Parish Councillors;
- reports from utility companies;
- emergency works (e.g. resulting from high winds).

The following categories will be used when prioritising tree works:

Priority 1: Urgent public safety, 24 hours to one week depending upon the risk;

Priority 2: Non-urgent but essential work, 1-6 months depending on level of risk/time of year;

Priority 3: Desirable, 12 months;

Non-priority: No action required.

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A tree could warrant immediate attention if, for example:

- it has snapped or blown over;
- it is rocking (roots are damaged);
- it is uprooted but held up by another tree or building;
- a large branch has broken off or is hanging off the tree;
- it or its branch is blocking the road or footpath;
- it or its branch is blocking access to property;
- it has fallen on to a structure, such as a building or car.

A tree may be a risk to people or property but does not require immediate attention if: for example:

- it is dead;
- it is dying (few leaves in summer or dieback in the crown);
- old splits and cracks are in the trunk or large branches;
- smaller branches or twigs are falling from the tree.

IPC encourages residents to retain existing trees and hedgerows within the curtilage of their property.

IPC aims to preserve our trees for future generations to enjoy.

This Policy should be reviewed every three years and endorsed by the clerks.

Dated Adopted 13th March 2023

Signed Cllr J Stanford (Chair)

Review Date March 2024