

Tree Policy



We will not prune or fell a tree that is owned or managed by the Council to:



- 1) Alleviate the nuisance of branches overhanging private property.
- 2) Prevent roots entering private drains that are already broken or damaged.
- 3) Improve natural light to private property unless it is required by a court order to do so.
- 4) Improve the view from private property.
- 5) Remove or reduce leaf fall or remove fallen leaves from private property.
- 6) Prevent or reduce honeydew or other sticky residue falling onto private property.
- 7) Remove or reduce blossom fall from trees or remove fallen blossom from private land.
- 8) Remove or reduce bird droppings from the tree, or remove bird droppings from private land or property.
- 9) Remove or reduce the occurrence of fruit, berries or nuts falling onto footways or private land.
- 10) Remove or reduce incidence of Bees, Wasps and other insects or wild animals.
- 11) Enable or ease installation or improve reception of satellite or television receivers.
- 12) Improve the performance of Solar Water Heating Collectors or Solar Panels such as Photovoltaic Cells.
- 13) Reduce its size. A tree is not dangerous simply because it may be considered too big for its surroundings.
- 14) Remove Ivy or any other species of climbing plant from a tree to abate a nuisance e.g. bird nesting, pollen, fruit or for the purposes of light.

STRATTON ST MARGARET PARISH COUNCIL

Tree Policy FAQ'S

WHEN WILL YOU CUT DOWN A TREE?

Trees are usually only ever felled because it is best option to reduce the risk of harm to an acceptable level (e.g. dead, dying or diseased trees).

WHY ARE TREES NOT PRUNED MORE REGULARLY?

Substantial and frequent pruning of a tree can often weaken its structure, and should therefore be avoided for reasons other than reducing risk of harm to people or property.

HOW BIG IS THE GROUNDS TEAM?

The grounds team consist of 10 people who are responsible for the maintenance of open spaces across the entire parish.

WHY HAS GRASS OUTSIDE MY HOUSE NOT BEEN CUT DOWN?

Hedges and grass are maintained to a strict schedule. For grass, we aim for a turnaround of 4 weeks (weather permitting) between cuts. If you believe a verge near your property has been missed, please allow 3 weeks before contacting the grounds team.

CAN THE GROUNDS TEAMS FIX DAMAGED PATH SURFACES?

The grounds team are only responsible for keeping the paths clear and free from debris such as fallen leaves or branches.

CAN THE GROUNDS TEAM FIX POT HOLES IN THE ROAD?

The grounds team are not responsible for the maintenance of road surfaces. Any issues with the roads should be reported to the Swindon Borough Council's Highways division.

CAN THE GROUNDS TEAM MANAGE ABANDONED CARS?

The grounds team are not responsible for abandoned cars. Please report these to the DVLA.

WHAT ON-GOING MAINTENANCE IS CARRIED OUT ON THE TREES?

Maintenance includes removing dead wood, formative pruning and removing low branches from pathways. Tree work is carried out systematically based on our latest tree survey.

WHAT IS CLASSED AS AN UNSAFE TREE NEEDING EMERGENCY ACTION?

1. A tree is snapped, blown over or uprooted but resting on another tree.
2. A Large branch has broken off and is hanging, blocking a road or footpath
3. A tree has fallen onto a house or car.

HOW DOES THE WEATHER IMPACT THE GROUNDS TEAM?

Wet weather means that mowing and other jobs undertaken on soft footings are not possible. In these situations, the job will be resumed when conditions are more favourable.

WHY ARE THE RESIDENTIAL ROADS NOT SWEEPED?

Road sweeping falls under the responsibility of the Swindon Borough Council's 'Highways' division. All maintenance queries regarding roads should be directed to this department.

