

Area Board Briefing Tree Maintenance in Salisbury

Service: Local Highways 7 Countryside Access

Further Enquiries to: Chris Clark

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Outline of Responsibility

Wiltshire Council is responsible for trees that we own or for trees that grow on land managed by us.

The public highway generally includes the carriageway and adjoining footpaths but can also include grassed verges. For trees that are growing in areas that are designated as highway Wiltshire Council as the Highway Authority will undertake maintenance in line with policy.

Fore areas of public open space the service has been delegated to the City Council.

Within Salisbury there are also areas of public open space that are attendant to housing stock that is owned by Wiltshire Council, for these areas the City Council are responsible for maintenance.

Our tree stock is managed in line with our tree management policy.

Maintenance Policy

If a council owned tree is in such a condition that it poses a very high risk to people or property and is considered to be an emergency situation, urgent action will be taken to make the tree safe.

If a tree poses an immediate and present danger urgent action will be taken to make the tree safe.

Trees can be made safe by pruning or felling. We employ the most cost effective approach. However, for certain High Value and Ancient / Veteran trees we would consider other options to reduce risk to an acceptable level including those which would reduce the likelihood.

We will not prune or fell a council owned tree merely because it is considered to be 'too big' or 'too tall'.

Where trees are creating an obstruction to the highway action will be taken to remediate the problem. This includes the raising of the canopy and removal of epicormic growth.

Maintenance Resources

Wiltshire Council has a series of contracts with arboriculture contractors who are able to undertake the full range of maintenance tasks. For minor works the Parish Steward is able to undertake works.