Binfield Parish Council  
Tree Management Policy

Adopted:  
15 August 2017

To be reviewed:  
Amenity Committee – October 2018

Approver:  
Council

This policy sets out the approach Binfield Parish Council takes with regard to Parish owned trees:

**Budget:** Each year a budget (based on average of previous years spends) will be allocated to tree work – both inspection (if due that year) and the work itself. All spend will be agreed by the Amenity Committee unless work is identified which is urgent (eg following storm damage) when the Clerk will authorise work in line with the Parish Council’s Financial Regulations (2017). If required, further funds can be drawn from open spaces reserves but this will require approval by Council following a recommendation from the Amenity Committee.

**Bi-Annual Audit & carrying out of tree work** - The Parish Council will engage a specialist to carry out a tree audit every other year. The tree specialist appointed must be skilled in both specialist trees (such as those in the Arboretum at Silver Jubilee) as well as more common trees. All work recommended by the tree specialist will be reviewed and actioned accordingly. Work will be categorised as A, B and C which are defined as:

- **Category A** – Those trees in such a condition that part(s) of the tree requires urgent attention. It may be that these trees should be cordoned off until the works have been completed. Category A work will always be actioned promptly and if necessary under delegated authority to the Clerk (Financial Regulations 2017)
- **Category B** – Those trees requiring attention to prevent part(s) of the tree from causing damage or injury. Category B work will be actioned in a programme of works agreed by the Tree Specialist, the Council (Amenity Committee) and the contractor appointed following a review by the Amenity Committee and a recommendation to Council.
- **Category C** – Those trees requiring routine works. These works are not required to be completed urgently but it is recommended that they are carried out to prevent future inconvenience or costs. C work will be carried out subject to available budget in any given year. C work may be carried over to a future year.

**Tree Preservation Orders**
The Parish Council will ensure that any tree preservation order is recorded and all parish owned Trees with TPO’s are identifiable. Before any work is carried out on a tree with a TPO the necessary permissions will be gained.

**Resident Requests to carry out tree work NOT specified in the Tree Audit** - At times, the Parish will receive requests from residents who live adjacent to land owned by the Parish Council to carry out tree work. If the work has not been recommended by the Tree Audit, then it is unlikely to be work that is essential for either the health of the tree or the health and safety of the public. However, it may be that the tree is causing a legal nuisance such as obstructing footpaths or damaging buildings. An assessment for legal nuisance will be carried out and the Parish Council will seek expert advice, eg from the Tree Auditor or the Parks & Countryside Dept at Bracknell Forest Council. If such nuisance is determined then the Parish Council will take corrective action. Legal nuisance does not cover overhanging branches (which can be removed by the party); right to light or bird mess from nearby trees.

**Replanting / Planting of new trees** - When reviewing quarterly plans for areas the topic of new tree planting will always be considered. Where trees are removed due to a recommendation from the bi-annual tree audit, a recommendation will be sought for suitable replacement trees (species, location) and where possible this recommendation will be accommodated.

**Hedgerows**

Hedgerows are not covered by this tree management policy but managed separately under the open spaces contract.
Keeping this policy up to date - The Parish Council will keep its tree management policy up to date in line with any changes in regulations and will see guidance annually from Bracknell Forest Council and the contractor supplying the tree audit.