

Beadnell Parish Council

Tree Management Policy

The Beadnell Parish Council (Council) recognises that it has a duty of care to ensure that all trees growing on its land are maintained in a safe condition and will take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of the public and of property. The trees will be inspected in accordance with the schedule below and any remedial work required will be carried out as soon as reasonably practicable taking into account the nature of the work to be undertaken and the likely danger to the public.

The Council is responsible for -

a) Village Green south of St. Ebba's Church

The 3 mature trees are in good condition and currently pose no obvious risk to the public or property. A cherry tree nearest the electricity pole, a beech nearby and a leaning maple nearest the church wall.

b) Meadow Lane Playground

The 5 immature trees around the periphery pose no obvious risk to the public or property. 1 silver birch tree.

c) Cemetery Trees

There are 25 mature trees and a number of recently planted seedlings and saplings in the walled cemetery. A detailed record is kept.

All other trees in the Parish are the responsibility of the Northumberland County Council or privately owned.

Inspections

Inspections will check the condition of trees, roots and overhanging branches and detail any remedial work necessary and the degree of urgency to avoid personal injury or property damage.

- i) Regular inspections will take place at least annually, once when the trees are in leaf and alternative years, when not in leaf.
- ii) Additional inspections of trees following severe weather conditions or for those trees requiring more frequent inspection due to their condition.

The trees will be inspected by a layperson with a working knowledge of trees. The inspections are a visual inspection of the tree from ground level looking for biological signs, such as undersized leaves, discoloured foliage, dead branches, cavities, large or numerous cankers, fungal fruiting bodies and signs of structural weakness.

Any tree causing concern may be referred to the Northumberland County Council (NCC) Tree & Woodland Officer for advice as to action to be taken, alternatively, the Council will approach an arboriculturist.

Branches overhanging Council land from trees not on Council land will either be pruned or the owner contacted requesting this be done. The Parish Clerk must be advised in advance to ensure safety measures are taken and all cuttings removed by the owner.

Maintenance and remedial work. Straightforward pruning, trimming, replacement planting and general care of trees may be carried out by community volunteers. Lopping, felling and all dangerous and/ or specialised work will be contracted out by the Council.

Records

The Parish Clerk will keep a record of all Council trees to be up-dated after every inspection and following remedial work or felling.

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An initial assessment was made on 22.2.19 by Barry Wilson, NCC Tree & Woodland Officer.