



Ripple Parish Council Tree Policy

Ripple Parish Council (RPC) aim to manage trees on land in its ownership in a safe and sustainable manner as our trees represent significant amenity and visual value to our residential communities.

The Council have adopted a pro active approach to tree maintenance, however only essential /minimal works will be undertaken to manage a tree because the Council supports a policy of tree preservation. The type of works undertaken will depend on the tree location, species and its state of health at the time.

RPC aim to annually (but no less than every 2 years), monitor and inspect its tree stock on Council owned land.

RPC will consider written requests from residents for individual tree work on trees on land in its ownership. Councillors will consider each request and respond detailing any work the Council may approve. If appropriate the Council will seek the advice of a qualified tree surgeon.

Work the Council will do in respect of trees on land in its ownership.

- a) Remove dead, dying and dangerous trees.
- b) Remove major dead wood which overhang private or Council property.
- c) Remove dangerous or damaged limbs.
- d) Prune branches which could damage structures, cables which could result in actionable legal nuisance.
- e) Where appropriate, dead or fallen wood would be left on site unless there are sound conservation and safety reasons for its removal.
- f) Relatives will be informed if work is carried out on memorial trees.

In carrying out the above works the Council will have full regard as to whether a tree is in a conservation area or has a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) placed upon it. In such circumstances advice and approval will be sought from the Malvern Hills District Council.

The Council will invariably seek to instruct a tree surgeon registered to British Standard 3998 and with the Environment Agency to carry and remove waste.

Residents must not carry out work on trees on Council owned land without first contacting the Clerk and receiving written permission to do so.

Adjacent landowners to trees on Parish Council Land have a common law right to prune back branches to their boundary, providing the tree in question is not protected by a TPO or situated in a Conservation Area.

Trees adopted by the Council

RPC have historically planted and maintained memorial trees on land north of Ripple Parish Hall on land not owned by the Council. The Council will maintain those trees in accordance with the same policy outlined for trees on land in its ownership, subject to notifying the landowner and relatives of the respective trees of its intention to do so.

RPC have also historically administered tree maintenance work around the perimeter of the Ryall War Memorial, in conjunction with landowner of trees to the rear.

Trees Not on Parish Council Owned Land.

Requests for work on trees situated within an adopted public highway, adjacent to the road or on roadside verges or on housing association and privately managed open space land, will invariably be the responsibility of those bodies, so the resident will be advised to forward their request directly to the relevant body.

Ripple Parish Councillors, employees or third parties employed by the Council must not enter onto private land for the purposes of assessing tree issues without the permission of the land owner.

Maintaining the Parish Tree Landscape

There may be instances when a mature tree is situated on land where ownership cannot be established, yet it forms a valued feature within the community landscape, to the extent that its loss would be significantly adverse. In exceptional circumstances, after all attempts to establish land ownership, including a Land Registry search have failed, the Council may at its sole discretion, consider adopting the tree as part of its tree management policy or alternatively carry out singular remedial action to maintain the tree in an emergency. The latter would no way imply ownership or ongoing responsibility of the tree. The Council would seek reimbursement of any costs incurred if and when the land owner is subsequently identified.

Appendix

Council Owned Land

The Recreation Ground Ryall as delineated Land Registry Entry WR182098.

Recreation Ground embankment to public footpath as delineated Land Registry Entry HW187159.

Managed Trees

The Monument Triangle, Uckinghall.

Adopted Trees on Non- Council Land

Memorial Trees on land North West of Ripple Parish Hall.