

Tree Management Policy

Adopted by Rawreth Parish Council on 1st October 2025

This is a policy for the management of trees owned and maintained by Rawreth Parish Council, it is intended to act as a reference point for the Councillors, Council employees, Council contractors and members of the public to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of trees.

A principle of English Common and Statute Law is that the land and tree owners have a duty of care to visitors, residents, passers-by and indeed trespassers when on their land. This means the Parish Council has a responsibility to take reasonable steps to reduce risk of death or injury to those on Parish Council Land.

Any queries on trees belonging to Rawreth Parish Council should be made to the Clerk by email: clerk@rawrethparishcouncil.co.uk

Trees on other open spaces may be the responsibility of landowners, Rochford District Council or Essex County Council. Trees generally situated within the public highway, adjacent to the road or on roadside verges, are generally the responsibility of Essex County Council.

Trees help to add variety to our landscape and provide valuable habitats for many species while providing us with cleaner filtered air. Rawreth Parish Council aims to preserve its trees for future generations to enjoy.

Work that Rawreth Parish Council will carry out on Council owned/maintained trees.

The Parish Council will ensure that inspections of trees are carried out by a qualified tree surgeon on all land owned by the Parish Council. These inspections will be carried out on an annual basis and a programme of tree works will be applied based on these inspections. Additional inspections will be carried out should concerns be raised, needs are identified or adverse weather conditions dictate.

The Parish Council will allocate sufficient resources to ensure that it is able to manage and maintain the trees that it owns.

The Parish Council will request any tree surgeon carrying out any work on Parish Council land should provide a copy of their public liability insurance certificate and relevant

qualifications, and wherever possible the Council will use a tree surgeon they have worked with before who has knowledge of the trees the Council own and maintain.

The Parish Council will maintain a good working relationship with the Tree Officer at Rochford District Council, and will ensure all requirements such as Tree Preservations Orders and Planning Applications are adhered to and if necessary Rochford District Council are notified of any requirements to apply for 5-day Notice for immediate remedial work where there is an imminent danger.

Whilst maintaining the Council's trees, consideration will be given to the impact of tree pruning or felling on local wildlife and tree work will be scheduled in periods where impact on wildlife will be minimal.

Whilst maintaining the Council's trees, the Council will remove dead, dying, diseased and dangerous trees and remove dangerous and damaged limbs.

Work that Rawreth Parish Council will not carry out to Council owned trees.

The Council has no obligation to carry out the following works:

Cut back branches overhanging private property.

'Top' trees or remove branches to increase daylight or decrease in height in relation to property

Remove branches or trees affecting views or interfering with TV reception.

Remove branches or trees to prevent falling leaves, honeydew from aphids, excrement from birds and/or animals, or other minor debris.

Remove roots from drains or repair root damage to structures where the tree has not been clearly demonstrated to be the principal cause

Remove branches or trees to prevent potential root damage to structures

Remove branches or trees nearly touching buildings, walls, roofs, fences, etc.

Remove branches or trees to prevent access to squirrels or birds.

The Parish Council will consider any complaints regarding trees on Council owned property, taking into account its Tree Management Policy and/or advice from a qualified tree surgeon.

If members of the public would like tree works carried out that are not covered by the Parish Council, they should make their own arrangements as described and in accordance with the following.

In Common Law, a property owner can cut back overhanging branches to the boundary of their property. The Parish Council would usually have no objection to property owners carrying out tree work or engaging a contractor at their own expense provided that:

Access is not gained onto the neighbouring Parish Council land or to a tree within that land unless permission must be granted via the Parish Council Clerk.

The tree is not situated in the Conservation Area or protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

Any other work to a tree is not detrimental to its health or stability; for their own protection members of the public are advised to obtain advice from a qualified tree surgeon.

For tree pruning work, whoever does the work, it is carried out to an acceptable standard, in accordance with the British Standard Recommendations for tree work.

All cuttings, chippings, branches are removed from the site by the Tree Surgeon and due diligence and checks are made to ensure how the rubbish from site will be disposed of, and if necessary proof of a waste license is obtained.

Once permission has been granted by the Parish Council , before work commences, the property owner notifies the Parish Council office of the proposed work and commencement date

The Parish Council has no jurisdiction over trees on private land and does not carry out works on privately owned trees.

Adopted by Rawreth Parish Council

DATE: 1st October 2025

SIGNED: Cllr S Belton Chairman