

Tree Strategy 2022 – 2027

Briefing Document

Introduction

Trees and woodlands are an integral part of our countryside and urban landscapes. They support a wide variety of wildlife and provide many benefits to people's local environment and wellbeing. At global, national and local scale, trees play a key role in combating climate change and air pollution, and can make positive contributions to local economies through sustainable forestry and woodland products.

As a landowner, Three Rivers District Council (TRDC) values its remarkable tree heritage and is committed to the management of its tree & woodlands according to current best practice. As a Local Planning Authority (LPA), the Council recognises the importance of its role as a regulator, ensuring that trees are fully considered during the planning process, and that trees of significant public amenity value are protected.

The Council is also keen to support other tree owners in the district to plant and care for trees that will benefit local communities, and visitors to the district, over the long term.

What is a Tree Strategy and why does the council need one?

To ensure that the most pressing issues concerning trees and woodlands in Three Rivers are being addressed, it is important that the Council's resources and actions are focused effectively. The production of a tree strategy is the process by which the Council will assess its roles and responsibilities in relation to trees in the district.

The council's previous Tree Management Strategy (2015-2020) was primarily focused on tree safety. This new strategy is intended to assess TRDC's wider roles and responsibilities; as a landowner; regulator; and advocate for trees.

The new tree strategy will set out the Council's approach to a whole range of tree issues, and will identify and prioritise actions for the Council to achieve over the next five year period (2022-2027).

Next steps

This initial briefing document sets out the broad process and timescale to producing a new tree strategy. It also hi-lights the points when stakeholders will be consulted, and invited to comment on the emerging strategy.

The publishing of this briefing document is an opportunity for stakeholders to make any initial comments. Below is a list of issues that the strategy will be seeking to address. If you would like to comment on this, or submit any other points you would like to see included in the strategy, please respond via our website at: <https://www.threerivers.gov.uk/egcl-page/consultations>

Once the draft strategy has been produced there will be a further consultation period later in 2021, during August and September.

Topics for inclusion in the strategy:

- New planting and establishment
- Biodiversity
- Protected trees
- Safety and Inspection
- Woodland management
- Subsidence issues
- Community involvement
- Planning and development
- Tree works applications
- Management of Council owned trees

TRDC Tree Strategy Production Process 2021

