



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT/HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL POLICY FOR THE PRACTICAL MANAGEMENT OF TREES AND HEDGEROWS

The policy adheres to and is informed by HTC Climate and Biodiversity Emergency motion passed on 26th September 2019. The Council has a duty to balance the varying needs of stakeholders including addressing severe biodiversity decline, the climate emergency and users of Council owned land, and will seek to take a strategic approach.

1) Inspection regime

Sites will be inspected on a biennial basis, and individual trees (or groups) annually when advised in the inspection report.

2) Remedial tree surgery work

Any identified issues which require immediate attention (within 1 month) will be carried out as soon as possible and Council notified.

Any identified issues which require essential maintenance (within 6 months) will be carried out in a timely manner and Council notified.

Any identified issues which require routine maintenance (within 12 months) will be carried out in a timely manner and Council notified. Where appropriate, this work may have to be included in the budget for the following year.

3) Requests for tree work

The council will respond to all reasonable requests for action from residents whose land is adjacent to council land but will not normally fell or prune trees for any of the following reasons:

1. To mitigate issues caused by natural or seasonal activities eg fallen leaves, fruit and berries, or dropping of pollen
2. To increase or reduction of light into gardens or properties, with the exception of street lighting which is dealt with in the inspection report
3. To resolve Issues to television or satellite reception
4. During nesting season unless the work is marked for immediate attention
5. If the tree contains roosting bats
6. If the tree overhangs a neighbouring property unless not doing so will cause a health and safety issue

4) Replanting where a tree has been felled

Consider the following principles when deciding whether and where to plant a replacement tree:

- **Understanding the site:** Assess the existing site conditions, opportunities and constraints, and identifying the appropriate tree species and planting locations.
- **Making tree-friendly places:** Create a supportive environment for trees to thrive, such as providing adequate soil volume and quality, avoiding conflicts with utilities and infrastructure, and integrating trees with other green infrastructure elements.
- **Using trees to reinforce project benefits:** Maximise the multiple benefits that trees can provide, such as enhancing the visual character and identity of a place, improving air quality and microclimate, supporting biodiversity and ecosystem services, and contributing to health and well-being.
- **Selecting the right trees:** Choose the tree species that best suit the site conditions, design objectives, and management requirements, taking into account factors such as size, shape, form, growth rate, longevity, resilience, adaptability, and biodiversity. Native species should be the default choice save where climate change considerations indicate otherwise. Review the latest guidance of the Forestry Commission on this point.
- **Procuring healthy stock:** Source high-quality nursery stock that meets the relevant standards and specifications, ensuring that the trees are healthy, vigorous, well-formed, and free of pests and diseases.
- **Specifying fit-for-purpose tree planting details:** Design and detail the tree planting components, such as pits, guards, stakes, ties, irrigation systems, drainage systems, and mulches, to ensure that they provide adequate support and protection for the trees during establishment and beyond.
- **Anticipating and reducing maintenance needs:** Plan and implement regular maintenance regimes for the trees, such as watering, weeding, pruning, fertilizing, inspecting, and monitoring, to ensure that they remain healthy and safe throughout their lifespan.
- **Achieving quality delivery:** Ensure any tree plantings are carried out by qualified and experienced contractors who follow the best practices and guidelines for tree planting and establishment.

5) Records

Tree inspections are retained in accordance with the Council's retention policy.

In line with HTC Strategy and forthcoming updates the Council wishes to work in collaboration with various stakeholders in the community. With regards this Tree and Hedgerow policy the Council wishes to work in partnership with relevant stakeholders including but not exclusively; The Tree Wardens, Haslemere Society, volunteer Landscape Architect, Haslemere Biodiversity Group, the Allotment holders & community. The Council wishes to promote industry standard best practice in matters relating to the Tree and Hedgerow Strategy and encourage stakeholders similarly.

Allotments sites

A) Clammer Hill Allotments – Clammer Hill, Grayswood



Non-roadside hedge line– reduce to more manageable height of between 1.25m -1.8m depending on the requirements of the plot holders.

Maintain vertical crown clearance above plots of 2-3m above ground level.

Orchard – awaiting wording Cllr Matthes

B) Collards Lane Allotments



Maintain vertical crown clearances above plots of 2-3m above ground level.

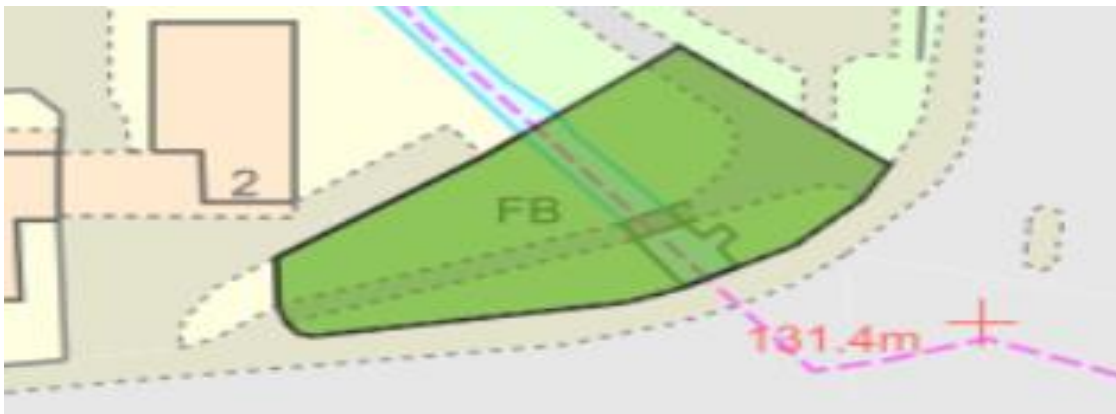
(If found that HTC are responsible for the treeline along the track then a selective removal of taller growing species, like ash, could be considered in the short to medium term (0-15yrs). Selections could take place every 2-4 years and be made during tree inspections of HTC assets if these are maintained.)

C) Sturt Road Allotment and embankment



Maintain vertical crown clearances above plots of 2-3m above ground level.

D) Clement Corner (Crown & Cushion) bottom of Weydown Road



Hedge line is cut back 2 x annually under grounds maintenance contract

E) Grovers Garden



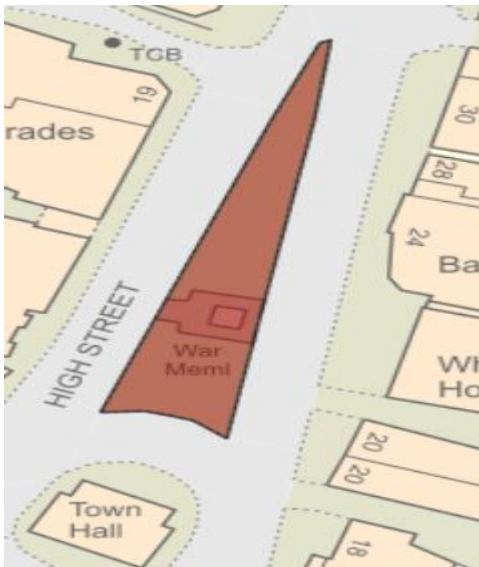
Prune hedge line adjacent to Wood Road 2 x annually under grounds maintenance contract

F) Lion Green orchard

The orchard was planted by COPSE and it is agreed they will prune & maintain – awaiting wording Cllr Matthes



G) Memorial Green tree



H) Pocket Park



I) St Christopher's Green



J) Town Meadow (to include newly planted hedge along Tanners Lane)



Existing hedge line - 2 x annually under grounds maintenance contract

K) Woodcock Green



L) Pocket Park (junction of Shepherd's Hill & Lower St)



M) SANG land – see next page

SANG MANAGEMENT (SDMP)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6+ (in perpetuity)
Existing Hedgerows & Trees						
Any arboricultural management to be carried out outside the bird nesting season (March - July inc) or after a suitably qualified ecologist has undertaken checks to ensure no nesting birds are present	Outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)	Outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)	Outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)	Outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)	Outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)	Annually Outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)
Retained hedgerows will be cut on a 2-3 year rotation and managed for their nature conservation, landscape character and visual amenity	On a 2-3 rotation outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)	On a 2-3 rotation outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)	On a 2-3 rotation outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)	On a 2-3 rotation outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)	On a 2-3 rotation outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)	Annually On a 2-3 rotation outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)
New Native Trees						
Regular health checks during periods of drought	Formative pruning, removal of dead plant material, replacement where necessary	Formative pruning, removal of dead plant material, replacement where necessary	Formative pruning, removal of dead plant material, replacement where necessary	Formative pruning, removal of dead plant material, replacement where necessary	Formative pruning, removal of dead plant material, replacement where necessary	-
General landscape maintenance and management works	Maintenance and replacement of tree stakes and tree guards	Maintenance and replacement of tree stakes and tree guards	Maintenance and replacement of tree stakes and tree guards	Maintenance and replacement of tree stakes and tree guards	Maintenance and replacement of tree stakes and tree guards	-
Maintain a layer of mulch and weed control	Annually	Annually	Annually	Annually	Annually	-

Any arboricultural management to be carried out outside the bird nesting season (March - July inc) or after a suitably qualified ecologist has undertaken checks to ensure no nesting birds are present	Outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)	Outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)	Outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)	Outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)	Outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)	Annually Outside the bird nesting season (March-July inc)
Grassland						
Grassland to be subject to a sensitive management regime	One quarter of the existing sward shall be cut annually in January or February to a minimum height of 150mm and all arisings removed	One quarter of the existing sward shall be cut annually in January or February to a minimum height of 150mm and all arisings removed	One quarter of the existing sward shall be cut annually in January or February to a minimum height of 150mm and all arisings removed	One quarter of the existing sward shall be cut annually in January or February to a minimum height of 150mm and all arisings removed	One quarter of the existing sward shall be cut annually in January or February to a minimum height of 150mm and all arisings removed	Annually One quarter of the existing sward shall be cut annually in January or February to a minimum height of 150mm and all arisings removed
Mown Pathways						
To be maintained with a short sward and cut on a regular basis (approx every 6 weeks between Apr & Aug)	Pathways to be cut throughout the growing season when the sward reaches circa 100mm long back to a length of circa 35mm, with all arising removed	Pathways to be cut throughout the growing season when the sward reaches circa 100mm long back to a length of circa 35mm, with all arising removed	Pathways to be cut throughout the growing season when the sward reaches circa 100mm long back to a length of circa 35mm, with all arising removed	Pathways to be cut throughout the growing season when the sward reaches circa 100mm long back to a length of circa 35mm, with all arising removed	Pathways to be cut throughout the growing season when the sward reaches circa 100mm long back to a length of circa 35mm, with all arising removed	Annually Pathways to be cut throughout the growing season when the sward reaches circa 100mm long back to a length of circa 35mm, with all arising removed
Site Furniture						

Dog bins to be emptied	Every 2 weeks (dependant on review, with more regular checks undertaken if necessary)	Every 2 weeks (dependant on review, with more regular checks undertaken if necessary)	Every 2 weeks (dependant on review, with more regular checks undertaken if necessary)	Every 2 weeks (dependant on review, with more regular checks undertaken if necessary)	Every 2 weeks (dependant on review, with more regular checks undertaken if necessary)	Annually Every 2 weeks (dependant on review, with more regular checks undertaken if necessary)
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Orchard Month By Month Management

* generic, and thus subject to individual site management plans

Spring	Growth Stage	Task	Notes
March	Bud emergence	-Check trees, stakes and guards in preparation for the growing season - Collect fallen branches and create habitat piles - Cut or remove grass from around the base of trees and sow wildflower seed or plant perennials. The vigorous turf grasses present in the orchard are dominant and compete with the orchard trees for water and nutrients	
April	Flowering	- Maintain any newly planted trees with 1m mulch ring around base to support establishment	
May	Fruit and shoot establishment	- Feed trees with compost, organic home-made fertiliser or seaweed	
Summer			
June	Shoot growth & fruit maturing	- Monitor orchard and cut back nettle and bramble patches selectively, leaving some patches for wildlife - Consider thinning fruit where there are large clusters of fruit developing. Thin at the end of June to allow for natural fruit drop.	
July	Fruit maturing	- Monitor fruit damage and disease. Consider thinning fruit where there are large clusters	
August	Shoots stop growing & fruit ripens	- Monitor fruit damage and disease	
Autumn			
September	Leaf senescence & fruit harvest	- Harvest fruit of apples - Cut back grass and remove cut material - Put down woodchip on pinch point of paths - Mulch around soft fruit with woodchip or compost	
October	Leaf fall begins	- Harvest fruit of apples - Cut and remove 50% dead wood in the tree to support an open branch structure, whilst leaving some for biodiversity - Create habitat piles or dead hedges with branches	
November	Leaf fall	Planting of new trees and shrubs can begin	
Winter			
December	Tree dormancy	- Pruning of apples can begin - Aim: remove dead, diseased and damaged branches. Promote open structure and productive growth Remove no more than 1/3 of living wood	
January	Dormant	- Grafting apples to create new stock or graft onto existing species to change fruit type or diversify fruiting	
February	Semi-dormant	- Pruning and grafting continues - Start removing grass around trees and plant or sow herbaceous species in the bare ground created	

- Sections highlighted in green indicate particular opportunities for community tasks, informal training opportunities or seasonal celebration activities. However all items on this management plan are within the capabilities of most community orchard groups.

Below are some tables of possible seasonal work parties and celebrations:

Season	Event
January	Wassailing
Spring Work	Orchard tidy; check stakes; ties and guards; planting
April	Blossom Festival
September/October	Apple-picking; Apple Day; Apple pressing
Winter	Pruning