

GUIDANCE ON TREE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

2. The purpose of this report is to give the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel the opportunity to comment on a draft guidance document that has been prepared to give advice and information about the protection of trees on private land and in the context of development proposals before it is considered for approval by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure. The guidance explains the way the Council, as the Local Planning Authority, can protect important trees through its powers to make Tree Preservation Orders, and how it works to retain and maintain important trees when they are potentially affected by development proposals. It provides information for those involved in the management of trees and sets out the standard that New Forest District Council expects from new development proposals and works to protected trees with specific reference to the retention, protection and provision of trees.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This document is separate from the Corporate Tree Strategies which deal with the management of trees within the Council's ownership and control. A separate report to the Panel deals with the review of the Corporate Tree Strategies. However, there is obviously an overlap in terms of good practice advice that both documents address and promote.
- 3.2 The Tree Service dealing with tree protection and tree-related planning matters is now provided in-house within the Planning Service following the ending of the previous Service Level Agreement with the New Forest National Park Authority.
- 3.3 The guidance produced (as set out in Appendix 1) sets out:
 1. The different ways important trees can be protected:
 2. How the design of new development needs to consider the relationship between buildings and trees and protection of important trees: and
 3. Measures needed as part of the development process to ensure trees are protected during development and new tree planting is successful
- 3.4 Further guidance on tree Work Applications is available on the Planning Portal at: https://ecab.planningportal.co.uk/uploads/1app/guidance/guidance_note-works_to_trees.pdf

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The document provides useful information which will assist developers, the public and officers in improving the consideration of trees in relation to planning matters. Comments of the Panel are invited prior to consideration of the guidance document by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure for approval.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are none.

6. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are none.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Improvements to the protection of trees.

8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATION

8.1 There are none.

9. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none.

10. RECOMMENDATION

10.1 That the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel consider the Tree Protection and Development Guidance, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

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Background Papers:

Published documents