



Tree Policy

Reviewed and agreed: Full Council Committee meeting 22nd April 2021- Agenda item 7

Sandgate Parish Council's general policy in relation to all trees, including those not specifically protected, is to view them as an amenity to be protected where possible. It will therefore be policy to help maintain and if possible, increase the number of trees in the town and to encourage their planting and retention within new developments where appropriate.

- Sandgate Parish Council will encourage Kent County Council, which is primarily responsible for tree planting, albeit under an essentially commercial contract with Folkestone & Hythe District Council to replace as well as remove trees on roadsides both on an individual 'remove and replace' basis or in joint planting schemes.

- Sandgate Parish Council will, save in exceptional circumstances, reject all planning applications for the removal of protected trees including trees in Conservation Areas, unless a tree of similar species or similar size when mature is planted nearby within ten months of removal. The site of the replacement will be agreed by the Parish and the Folkestone & Hythe District or Kent County Councils Tree Officers.

- Sandgate Parish Council will normally resist applications for the removal of protected trees including trees within Conservation Areas, if the tree is healthy. Applications must be supported by good expert evidence of serious disease, property damage etc unless major problems are clear to a layman. SANDGATE PARISH COUNCIL will encourage the retention of mature trees, even when originally unprotected, on all building developments.

- Sandgate Parish Council will insist that Kent County Council take the appropriate action wherever trees on public highways or in public open spaces are cut down illegally, whether subject to a tree preservation order or not.

- Sandgate Parish Council will encourage the inclusion of a reasonable proportion of new verges and trees on all developments including residential roads. Representatives will consult with Folkestone & Hythe District Council planners to promote this policy in the Local Development Framework.

