

## **Buckland Dinham Parish Council**

### **Policy for considering applications for works to trees in the Conservation Area**

1. The Parish Council will support any works to trees which will serve to prolong their life and maintain their long term health.
2. The Parish Council will support any works to, or felling of, trees which are dead, diseased or dying, or where their continued presence is felt to pose a risk to people or damage to property (this would include those presenting a risk of obstructing water courses or damaging drains, walls, roads etc, which could cause wider problems).
3. The Parish Council will not actively seek to prevent the felling of non indigenous and invasive species (Leylandii for example) without good reason (eg: if they fulfil an important role or have amenity value).
4. The Parish Council will seek to preserve larger specimens of indigenous species of tree (Oak, Ash, Beech, Yew etc), preferring to see a reduction in their crown size rather than felling, unless they fall under the provisions of point 2 or there is a justifiable reason why felling may be beneficial (eg: the loss of one of a group of oversized trees too close together may benefit the remaining trees in the long run).
5. The Parish Council will encourage the replacement of trees felled, particularly those of an indigenous variety, where it is deemed appropriate. The replacement tree should be of the same, or of an appropriate similar species, and be planted in a suitable location as close as possible to the site of the original.
6. The Parish Council will, where possible, try to ensure the works to or felling of trees are carried out in line with the provision of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, unless they fall under the provisions of point 2 (i.e. works should ideally be undertaken October-March).

Policy prepared by Councillor Jonathan Swift and agreed by council at meeting on 5 December 2013