



Dacorum Borough Council Trees & Woodlands Policy 2014 - 2019

Dacorum Borough Council

Draft Trees and Woodlands Policy

11th March 2014



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1. Review Member comments from October 2012
2. Structure of Draft Policy
3. Summary of Draft Policies
4. Key points from Draft Policy





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Cllr Wyatt-Lowe: what system was used for resolving tree enquiries from the public and work actually being undertaken ?

Cllr Elliot: is going to be a grading system to prioritise and produce a timescale for works ?

Both questions are addressed by the new policy. Policy 5 and the sections on 'Life' and 'Priorities' provide the detail.



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Cllr Reay: concern that a disproportionate number of our trees were reaching old age within a relatively short timescale.

The 'LIFE' system will allow us to monitor trends in the way our trees are responding to a range of potential problems such as climate change, new diseases and old age



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Cllr Harris: concerned that residents issues were low down the priority scale, also that complaints about cherry trees were disproportionately high.

‘Priorities’ address the necessity to deal with trees that pose a danger to persons, property or transport. In many cases problems of a lesser priority are not funded, this is especially the case with highway trees.

Policy 8 and ‘New Trees’ in Part 3 addresses our approach to tree selection.



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Cllr Adshead: are new trees are planted to replace those lost ?

Policy 8 and the section on new trees in Part 3 addresses our approach to new tree planting



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Cllr Anderson: Dacorum was not always able to manage the risk posed by trees.

The 'Life' system concentrates our resources towards those trees that pose the greatest risks.



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Cllr McKay: can *CORVU* figures could be obtained for the number of trees needing attention and those which have received attention ?

Currently *CORVU* is aimed at contractor compliance and Planning Applications processed.

Member's guidance is sought, 'Life' system has the capacity to provide short and medium term trends in the tree population



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Status of Current Policy

The current policy is due to be reviewed

Need for a New Policy

The current policy is out of date and out of focus



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Structure of the New Policy - Part 1

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Summary of New Policies
- ❖ Overview of Dacorum Landscape
- ❖ Overview of Relationship between People and Trees
- ❖ Current Management Structure



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Structure of the New Policy - Part 2 - A Quick Guide

- ❖ Management of Trees
- ❖ Trees in Public Housing
 - ❖ New Trees
- ❖ Finance and Value for Money
 - ❖ Trees and the Law
- ❖ Ancient and Veteran Trees
- ❖ Trees in Private Ownership



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Structure of the New Policy - Part 3 – Information

- ❖ Tree Inspections and Records
 - ❖ Priorities
 - ❖ Life
 - ❖ Tree Work Types
- ❖ Borough Woodlands
 - ❖ New Trees
- ❖ Finance and Value for Money
 - ❖ Trees and the Law
 - ❖ Ancient and Veteran Trees
 - ❖ Trees in Private Ownership
- ❖ Frequently Asked Questions
 - ❖ Useful Contacts



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Summary of New Policies

Heritage

Policy 1 The Council will value our heritage of trees, both those retained from past agricultural land use and those planted as part of our towns.

Policy 2 The Council will, wherever possible, retain and enhance the tree cover within the Dacorum Borough landscape.

Policy 8 The Council will, where appropriate, plant a new tree to replace one that has been lost.

Policy 10 We will identify ancient or veteran trees and undertake any work needed to retain or restore their historic, aesthetic and conservation value



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Summary of New Policies

People and Trees

Policy 3 The Council will undertake and record routine tree inspections to the tree stock for which it has a responsibility.

Policy 4 The Council will undertake such works as considered necessary to maintain public safety.

Policy 5 The Council will endeavour to take some action in response to resident's concerns about trees, however, felling or pruning work will be constrained by:

- ❖ Good practice as defined by BS 3998 2010 – Recommendations for Tree Work
- ❖ Available Funding
- ❖ The Council's system of prioritising work

Policy 6 Where major programmed works are proposed the Council will provide information to local residents.



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Summary of New Policies

Borough Woodlands

Policy 7 Management of Borough woodlands will be undertaken to achieve the following objectives:

- ❖ Public safety and access
- ❖ Nature conservation



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Summary of New Policies

Value for Money

Policy 9 In order to provide residents with excellent value, the Council will procure the highest quality of tree work services at the most competitive rates.



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Key Points

- ❖ Residents Concerns
- ❖ Life System
- ❖ Priorities



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Residents Concerns

Policy 5 The Council will endeavour to take some action in response to resident's concerns about trees, however, felling or pruning work will be constrained by:

- ❖ Good practice as defined by BS 3998 2010 – Recommendations for Tree Work
- ❖ Available Funding
- ❖ The Council's system of prioritising work



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LIFE System

Over the last two years, a management tool called 'LIFE' has been introduced. The purpose of 'LIFE' is, with the application of a single figure (1 – 6) to know how far a tree is through its life, in the location in which its growing



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LIFE 1 – a young tree.

LIFE 2 - maturing, no foreseeable problems

LIFE 3 – a mature tree, minor issues.

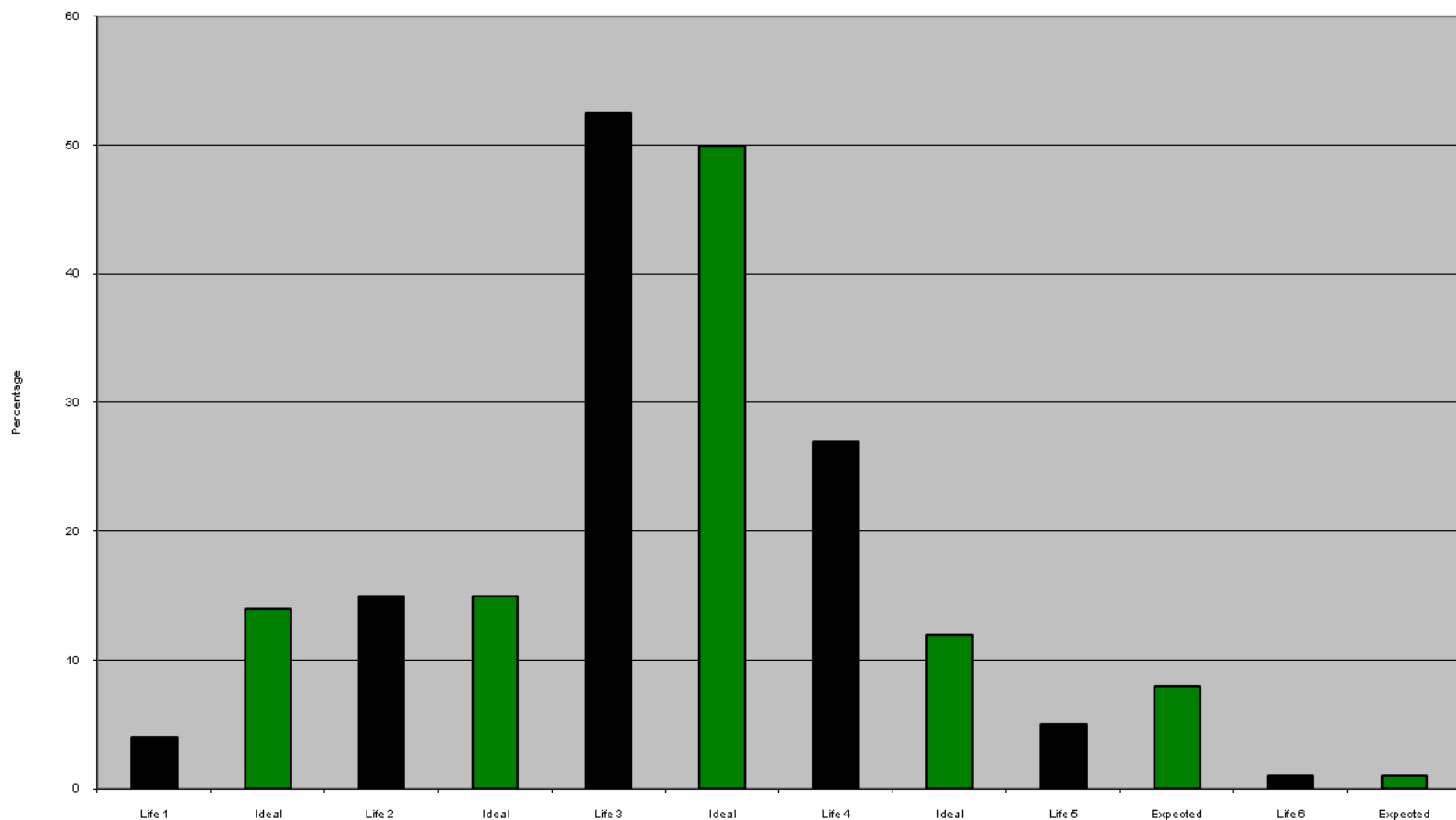
LIFE 4 - usually a mature tree, moderate issues. Requires annual inspection.

LIFE 5 – usually a mature tree, serious issues. Must either receive management so as to promote it to LIFE 4 (pruning) or be moved to LIFE 6 (felling)

LIFE 6 – Tree is dead or collapse is imminent – Tree to be felled



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Priorities

1. Failure to act to a foreseeable problem which places life in danger
2. Failure to act to a foreseeable problem which puts property at risk
3. Community safety
4. Large tree causing inconvenience
5. Small tree causing inconvenience



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Thank you

Any Questions