



Folkestone Town Council Tree Policy

Policy 1:

Folkestone Town 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. Folkestone is famous, and possibly pre-eminent in Kent, for its stock of large, mature trees, particularly in the older streets. 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.

Policy 2:

Folkestone Town Council as the successor in spirit to Folkestone Corporation, which was responsible for much of the planting for which Folkestone is distinguished, will budget an amount each year towards the cost of tree planting and maintenance of trees within the town.

Policy 3:

Folkestone Town Council will encourage Shepway District Council, which for many years until 2005-6 looked after trees in Folkestone, to make an annual contribution to tree planting and maintenance which at least matches that of the Town Council.

Policy 4:

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

Policy 5:

Folkestone Town 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 Town Council and the Shepway or Kent Tree Officer.

Policy 6:

Folkestone Town 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.

Policy 7:

Folkestone Town Council will encourage the retention of mature trees, even when originally unprotected, on all building developments.

Policy 8:

Folkestone Town 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

Policy 9:

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

Policy 10:

Folkestone Town Council strongly supports Shepway District Council's new policy of imposing group tree preservation orders in Castle Hill Avenue and Earl's Avenue, and planning them elsewhere . It will put forward a number of streets for protection spread across the town.