WEST BEDLINGTON
TOWN COUNCIL

Tree Planting Policy and Proceedure

Approved Minute Ref	**S22/56**
Date Adopted	**24th March 2022**
Last Review	**8th October 2026**
Next Review	**October 2027**

Tree-Planting Policy

West Bedlington Town Council's support for the planting of further trees and hedging in the Parish area is key to helping improve resident amenity and support the councils aim to reduce the towns carbon footprint and support local wildlife.

This policy is in place to help provide that support.

This policy sets out the protocol that must be followed when new trees are requested by residents, town/parish/county councillors or local landowners who may wish for the council to assist in planting.

The Town Council will fund the planting and protection of trees and watering in the first year of planting, this will be classed as the installation costs, but any works to trees required 1 year after planting will be the responsibility of the relevant body I.E the landowner, NCC tree services, etc. after 1 year the trees will become the responsibility of the relevant body.

1) All requests for trees must be submitted in writing to the Town Council including details of the location and type of item requested I.E trees or hedging, details on types of trees may not be suitable for that area and each scheme will be checked for suitable trees and/or hedging types by a qualified individual.
2) Following the request to the town council, consultation will be undertaken by the town council with the land owner to ensure they are supportive of the scheme going ahead
3) Following the consultation of the landowner, neighbouring residents (where near housing) will be consulted to ensure they are supportive of the scheme going ahead
4) Following consultation of neighbouring residents (if applicable and supported) it will be checked with the relevant ground maintenance contractor that they can continue to undertake ground maintenance contracts (if applicable) and they are supportive of the scheme.
5) The area proposed will be checked for any utilities (Electric, Water, Gas, etc) before approval of any scheme, the presence of utilities may result in tree planting being moved to a different location nearby or not being permitted by the Town Council.
6) The Town Council reserve the right to only permit planting if fully funded by the council or individuals/groups, they also reserve the right to put any planting on hold due to costs or budget related issues.
7) After approval and undertaking of the planting trees/hedging it will be maintained by the Town Council for watering on a weekly basis for 1 year to allow it to grow and establish, this watering can be undertaken at the council's expense or by individuals/groups/landowners but must be agreed and recorded by the council.
8) Any trees/hedging which fail (die or is vandalised within the 1 year) will be replaced by the town council subject to finances.
9) Any trees/hedging planted on road verges (within 1 metre of adopted highway) or land owned by NCC (Northumberland County Council) will be the responsibility of NCC Neighbourhood and Tree Services one year after installation.
10) Any tree/hedge planting will be undertaken between mid-November and early March.