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**01727 819344 or 819345**



The District Council Offices textphone number is **01727 819570**. The service is for customers with a hearing impairment.

এই লিফলেটে যে তথ্য দেওয়া হয়েছে যদি আপনি  
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[www.stalbans.gov.uk](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk)



Planning Advisory Leaflet



# TREES IN THE DISTRICT

## Introduction

Trees are one of the most important natural elements within the urban landscape of the City and District of St Albans, and the District Council, like all local authorities, has a duty to protect these trees for their amenity value in public open spaces and on Council properties.

In view of the benefits that we receive from trees and the Council's responsibility for tree management and protection, the Council has produced this leaflet to help you understand the importance of trees in the District.

## The value of trees

Trees, whether appearing as individuals, groups or as woodlands, are essential to life and their value cannot be overstated. They:

- are an important part of the landscape and contribute to people's quality of life and sense of well-being;
- release oxygen for us to breathe;
- absorb carbon dioxide (thereby reducing the greenhouse effect);
- filter air and reduce other pollutants such as ozone, nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxides, carbon monoxide, smoke, dust and ash;
- provide varied habitats for wildlife – a mature tree can provide support for over 460 different mammals, birds and insects;
- provide a renewable resource of timber, fruit, seeds, nuts and fuel;
- create aesthetic value, improving the appearance of our environment by providing a variety of scale, form, colour and shape;
- reduce wind speeds giving shelter and comfort;
- reduce noise levels;
- reduce flash flooding;
- reduce everyday stress, particularly important in today's environment. Research has shown that hospital patients

- recover more quickly when able to enjoy the view of trees;
- provide shade from the sun and make areas more attractive to live and work in;
- positively affect property values and help to attract investment.

## The District Council's role

The Council wants to ensure that the trees and woodlands within the District are adequately protected, maintained and supported by new planting so that their extent, quality, biological diversity and contribution to the character and appearance of the District can be sustained and enriched for the benefit and enjoyment of residents, visitors and future generations.

There are five major elements of the Council's tree population:

### *Street trees*

The District has approximately 10,000 street trees that are currently maintained by the Council under an agency agreement on behalf of the County Council's Highways Department to ensure the safety of both motorists and pedestrians.

### *Woodlands*

There are a number of ancient semi-natural woodlands within the St Albans District, some of which stand on common land, that are managed for public access, recreation and nature conservation.

### *Parks and open spaces*

The trees in parks and open spaces are not only important to regular visitors; they are very important contributors to the overall environment of the area and are especially valuable for providing shade during hot weather. They all require active management if they are to survive for generations to come.

### *Housing area trees*

These trees help to improve the landscape, especially around communal housing areas, and provide shade during hot weather.

### ***Closed churchyards and cemeteries***

Some of the trees found in the churchyards are probably amongst the oldest in the District and contain typical long-lived species such as Yew.

### **Tree protection**

Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, adequate provision must be made to protect trees. The most commonly known form of tree protection is the Tree Preservation Order (TPO), which restricts any work being carried out on a tree or trees without the written consent of the Local Authority.

Equally important are conservation areas, within which nearly all established trees are protected.

The Council currently has over 600 TPOs and 18 conservation areas. New TPOs are being made all the time, in line with the Council's statutory duties.

### **Trees and Woodlands section staff**

The Trees and Woodlands section staff are qualified arborists, with many years' experience. Decisions made resulting in tree works may sometimes be unpopular but they are necessary.

For further information and advice please contact:

The Trees and Woodlands Section  
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St Peter's Street  
St Albans AL1 3JE

Tel: 01727 819372

Email: [treesandwoodlands@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:treesandwoodlands@stalbans.gov.uk)

For more general information, please see the Council's Tree Strategy document on:

[www.stalbans.gov.uk/living/health/environment/tree-strategy-2004.pdf](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/living/health/environment/tree-strategy-2004.pdf)

### ***Further information***

This advisory leaflet is intended to be a helpful and useful source of information and not binding on any party. The Council offers no guarantee or warranties concerning the accuracy of the information supplied.

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