

# Tree Management



*Mandy Thomas*

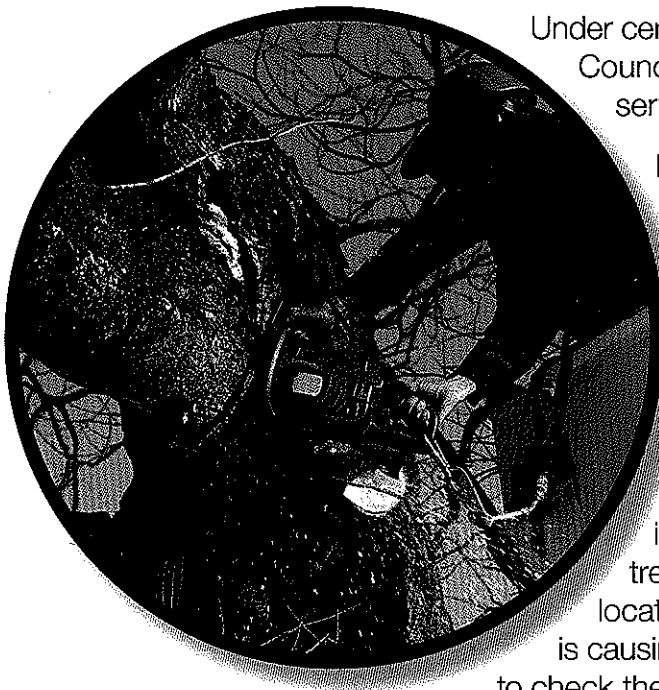


**St Albans**  
City & District Council

Housing Management

This leaflet is about tree care for tenants and leaseholders.

Tenants and leaseholders are responsible for caring for trees within their gardens. The Council cares for trees in communal gardens.



Under certain circumstances the Council may provide tree services.

If a tenant or leaseholder has concerns about the safety or condition of a tree in their garden, they should contact their Housing Officer.

The Housing Officer will ask for some basic information about the tree including details of its location and the problems it is causing. They may also visit to check the tree.

If the tree is in a communal area then it may be assessed by the Council's Estate Services Officer.

Otherwise, a tree may be referred to our Trees and Woodlands Service. They may decide to take action if the tree appears dead, damaged or diseased, is dangerous or likely to cause structural damage to a property. This may include pruning, removal of branches or removal of the tree.

**Priority A trees** are where work is highly recommended for safety or possible structural damage reasons.

**Priority B trees** are where a tree is close to a building and/or showing signs of decline.

**Priority C trees** are where a tree is inappropriate to the garden

The Council is not able to carry out work for aesthetic reasons, because the tree is large and blocking out light, interfering with a TV signal or because it is causing an obstruction or looks unsightly. In such circumstances it is up to the tenant or leaseholder to deal with the tree themselves.

If a tree is damaged by a tenant or leaseholder, for example by hanging a swing from a branch, responsibility rests with the tenant or leaseholder.

If a tenant wishes to prune or remove a tree themselves then they should contact their Housing Officer beforehand, giving details of what they propose doing and who will do it. Some trees have a tree preservation order and permission may have to be obtained before any work is carried out.

If a tenant or leaseholder causes any damage to their own or a neighbour's property, they will be charged for the cost of repairing that damage.

Where trees are removed from communal grounds, the costs of this may be recovered from leaseholders in the service charges.



**For more information please contact the:**

**Housing Department**

St Albans City & District Council  
St Peter's Street  
St Albans AL1 3JE

Telephone: **01727 819600**

Email: **housing@stalbans.gov.uk**

If you need this information in an alternative format, such as Braille or in another language, please call **01727 819494**.

The Council's textphone number is **01727 819570**.

This service is for people with a hearing impairment.



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**www.stalbans.gov.uk**