

HIGH PEAK TREE ADVICE NOTE

TREE WORK REQUESTS - CORONAVIRUS (COVID -19)

In light of the current government advice to limit the spread of Coronavirus to protect the public and staff High Peak Borough Council will not be undertaking works to trees except where works are required for essential reasons:

- Where a tree imminently poses a danger eg the risk of failure is high and it poses an unacceptable risk to life and limb.
- To assist in the protection or provision of important infrastructure for example transport networks, utility supplies, works on NHS sites.

REPORTING ISSUES WITH TREES

If you want to report an issue with a tree you can email details to

Trees@highpeak.gov.uk

We will continue to provide help and advice and to help us do this it would be useful to provide a good description of where the tree is or a plan. Photos of the tree also help a lot – if possible this should include a wider view of the whole tree in its immediate context, together with close-ups of any particular issues eg damage or suspected disease.

A present there is a restriction on movement and site visit will only be undertaken where it is deemed necessary to assess the requirement for essential risk management works. Any site visits undertaken will strictly comply with social distancing guidelines.

We will as far as practical assess the request and it will be prioritised along with existing requests to be dealt with when practical as the situation changes. We will advise you of the outcome of the assessment.

APPLICATIONS TO UNDERTAKE WORKS TO PROTECTED TREES

We will be working through any current applications and providing decisions. If you want to make any new applications to undertake works please use the forms available on the website. We will consider these and where possible issue decisions

UNDERTAKING TREE WORKS

Please do not be tempted to undertake tree works yourself at this time. Working at height and with chainsaws is dangerous unless you are properly trained and equipped and can lead to accidents which will put unnecessary additional pressures on the NHS. In addition, if you carry out tree work without suitable specific insurance you could be personally liable in the event that you cause damage to property or injury to others. Unauthorised work to trees on Council land may be regarded as criminal damage.

Advice and information about trees can be found on the council's website
<https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/article/304/Tree-work-and-preservation-TPOs>