

THE OXTON SOCIETY TREE GROUP - CODE OF PRACTICE

GENERAL

a) Wirral Borough Council (WBC) have a Statutory Duty in respect of all "protected" trees in Oxton.

A "protected tree" is a tree which:

- is in the Conservation Area, **or**
- is subject to a Tree Preservation Order, **AND** (in either case)
- has a trunk diameter, at roughly chest height of 75mm (3inches).

No work may be carried out on a protected tree without an Application to WBC.

b) WBC have requested The Oxton Society (OS) to assist them by inspecting any protected trees which are subject to an application to carry out work and comment as to the impact of such work on the Conservation Area.

c) OS have constituted the Tree Group to carry out that function.

d) OS role is advisory only. OS role is not that of mediator or intermediary between the Applicant and WBC.

APPOINTMENT

a) The Tree Group are appointed annually by the Executive Committee of OS.

b) Membership shall consist of not less than 3 and not more than 5 local residents. One member shall be a member of the Executive Committee of OS.

c) The Group shall appoint a coordinator from its members to manage the Group's communications.

CRITERIA

In considering an application the Group shall have regard to:

- the impact of the proposed works on the treescape of the Conservation Area and the locality generally.
- the physical condition of the tree and the impact of the proposed works on it.

Comment usually will only be appropriate in respect of works which are visible from the highway and public open space.

INSPECTION

a) Upon receipt of an Application from WBC, the Group will write to the Applicant and offer to meet them and view the proposed works at a mutually convenient time. In the event that the Applicant does not respond the Group will view the proposed works from the Highway or other adjacent public open space before responding to WBC.

REPLACEMENT OF TREES

- a) In appropriate cases, the Group are authorised by OS to offer to the Applicant the planting of a replacement tree.
- b) Such planting shall be free of charge to members of OS if it contributes to the amenity value of the Conservation Area.

COMPLAINTS

- a) A complaint by a member of the public shall be referred to the Chair of OS who shall appoint a panel consisting of the Secretary and 2 members. The panel shall investigate the complaint and report to the Executive Committee of OS.
- b) The Chair shall report to the Complainant and WBC following consideration by the Executive Committee.

This Code of Practice was agreed by the Executive Committee at its meeting in March 2019,