

Motion Trees

This council recognizes the immense contribution that trees make to our District - shaping the landscape, providing a vital habitat for wildlife, sequestering carbon to help combat climate change and playing an essential role in the eco-system by absorbing rainwater and preventing erosion.

Trees are also vital to our communities enhancing well-being, connecting people with their natural environment, providing shade and peace, cooling the streets, marking the seasons and giving our communities a sense of 'place'.

In light of the key role of trees this council will:

1. Agree a robust tree policy which includes pro-actively making Tree Protection Orders, particularly in view of unscrupulous developers who remove trees ahead of submitting planning applications
2. Commission a detailed district wide report which identifies ways of enhancing and improving the existing treescape
3. Implement a community engagement scheme to support town and parish councils in protecting and enhancing trees at the most local level

This council acknowledges that these proposals will increase the workload of the tree officers and additional tree officer capacity will be required in order to give effect to this motion. The Council will use its general fund balance in the current year and will commit to ongoing costs being met in the 2022/23 budget round.

Proposed by Cllr Jess Bailey

Seconded by Cllr Megan Armstrong

Supported by Cllrs; Denise Bickley, Olly Davey, Paul Jarvis, Vicky Johns, Geoff Pratt, Tony Woodward and Chris Wright