

Hathern Parish Council maintains trees on land it owns in the Parish, most notably on Hathern Park, the sports ground on Pasture Lane, Hathern Cemetery and on the Leys green space

### **Tree Inspection**

For trees in the ownership of the Parish Council we will be guided on the management of risk by the National Tree Safety Group. Trees will be inspected regularly (at least every 3 years) by an independent and qualified arboriculturist to assess what maintenance is required. This will be determined on grounds of safety of neighbours and the public, the health of the tree itself, and to the preservation of amenity value. We will be guided in the required frequency of inspections by the arboriculturist – some trees may be inspected more frequently than others dependent upon their location and/or health. In addition, trees will also be subject to a walk-by visual check on an 18-month cycle by an appropriately competent person.

During the inspection process the arboriculturist will look for:

- signs of instability
- weakness to the tree's structure
- disease and/or poor health
- obstructions to road access or visibility
- root damage to road surfaces and pavements
- interference with service cables /overhead wires

Tree ivy is of great value to wildlife. It provides late season fruits and shelter for many insects, birds and mammals. It is not a parasite, using the tree solely as a support. However, the presence of ivy can hide damage or defects on a tree. We aim to strike a balance between the benefits and drawbacks of ivy. We will remove ivy from trees close to sensitive locations like car parking areas and children's playgrounds. In less sensitive areas, we will take advice of our tree inspector to ensure adequate inspection can be carried out.

### **Tree Maintenance Work**

Any preventative or remedial works we identify from our inspections will be included in our tree maintenance programme.

We do not sort out issues caused by trees, such as:

- falling leaves, fruits, seeds and sap
- light and shading
- branches hanging into resident's gardens
- pollen and allergies
- honeydew deposits (produced by aphids feeding on the leaves of trees)
- roosting birds and droppings
- interference with television reception, telephones and solar panels

### **Approval for Tree Works**

Some trees in Parish Council ownership are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) or are in a Conservation Area. If these trees need any maintenance work, they will require formal planning permission from Charnwood Borough Council. Necessary maintenance will be carried out as soon as possible after planning permission is granted. A fine of up to £20,000 can be imposed if a protected tree is lopped, cut or pruned without that permission.