**Tree Inspection Policy:**

Maghull Town Council tree stock is managed between our ground’s maintenance team and an external contractor. Trees surveys are conducted on annual basis, but the season in which we carry out the survey can vary, as we believe it is good practice to stagger these reports due to the changing nature of trees throughout the seasons, autumn and winter often highlight different problems to spring and summer.  Additionally, trees are sometimes inspected in an ad-hoc way when additional monitoring is needed, or occasionally if prompted by an enquiry from a resident.

When a tree officer inspects the tree(s) they decide what action (tree work), if any, is necessary. On a rare occasion a second opinion will be sought from another tree team member. During an inspection they will consider:

* Any works necessary to the tree with regards to any Health and Safety risks the tree may pose (such as low branches, dead, decaying or dying trees) or needed to release pulled BT cables (branch tips that brush against BT cables don’t fall within this category)
* the priority that should be assigned to any recommended work
* the amenity value of the tree(s), their positive contribution to the urban environment.

If the inspection was prompted by a resident’s enquiry the officer will take the resident’s wishes into account. However, Maghull Town Council do not prune trees if the sole purpose of the tree works is to improve natural light to private property or to reduce overhang.  Such works can be carried out at the Council’s discretion only if Health and Safety works are identified to the same tree and they will not be detrimental to tree health.

Health and Safety work generally includes work that is necessary in the interests of public safety such as the felling of dead trees or the removal of trees with a serious structural defect. Also included in this category is the removal of very low branches that impede the safe use of the highway, branches that block light columns, obscure road signs, or pull tight telephone wires.

**Post Inspection/Remedial works:**

After a tree has been inspected any recommended work will be programmed-in accordingly. Tree works priority is based on the level of Health and Safety risk the tree poses or will pose, potential targets (tree’s location), tree species growth rate and tree’s condition. The works are not prioritised on a “first come first served” basis or by the number of calls a resident made about the tree.

For this reason, MTC cannot commit to commence tree works on any specific date or to a fixed timescale. The works schedule is constantly revised by the Facilities Manager, and any additional urgent Health and Safety works will be scheduled in accordingly, pushing less urgent Health and Safety works further down the list. Adverse weather conditions, flood situations and emergency call outs, can also change the work schedule. However, the Maghull Town Council Facilities Manager will keep residents informed every step of the way.

All tree works are carried out to British Standards (BS3998:2010), by qualified tree surgeons, and in compliance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

**Private Trees:**

Private trees – Maghull Town Council does not get involved in any tree-related disputes between neighbours (act as a go-between or liaison body). If land ownership is unknown, please contact[**Land Registry**](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/land-registry)**.**

**Contact Details:**

If you have any further issues or concerns, please contact Maghull Town Council directly by ringing 0151 526 3705 or e-mailing[**info@maghull-tc.gov.uk**](mailto:info@maghull-tc.gov.uk)