

Green-infrastructure and Biodiversity Advisory Group

Tree Management Proposal January 2023

Introduction

At the HDC Parish Forum in July 2022, all the departments show cased their work and what they could do to support Parish Councils. I met **George Allen** the lead Arboricultural Officer for HDC.

I arranged for him to visit Buckden, in part because we had undertaken work on a tree which we later found was the responsibility of HDC. I wished to confirm with him which trees were the responsibility of Buckden PC and which were HDC's. We discussed the possibility of outsourcing our tree work to HDC.

View of Advisory Group

The possibility of outsourcing the work to HDC was discussed at the November Advisory Group and it was agreed that in principle the group was in favour of placing the responsibility for managing the tree stock with an organisation with the skills and knowledge to do so. We had become aware in recent years of court cases involving tree maintenance, in particular cases where residents were injured by falling branches. We had, as a result of that, agreed tree surveys needed to be carried out more frequently, these incur considerable costs. In addition the organisation of tree work currently takes up a great deal of time identifying up to three tree surgeons specifying the work and agreeing work schedule. It was therefore agreed I would seek a quote from HDC for taking on the responsibility and then refer the issue for decision to the Parish Council.

Quotation

The following quote was received

Description	Price excl VAT
Service charge April 2023/ March 2024 - For the service use of raising quotes and organizing works when instructed to by Buckden Parish Council, The organizing of any tree applications needed or requested, To raise tree reports at the request of the parish, for advice and consultation.	£400.00
Tree surveys April 2023/ March 2024 per tree £15.00 total tree count 70	£1,050.00
Tree risk survey (QTRA) April 2023/ March 2024 per tree £5.00	£350.00
Prices exclude VAT	£1,800.00

I asked for explanation of the costs and received the following information.

- The frequency of the Tree Surveys would be as needed, depending on the tree within an annual cycle. HDC are not currently familiar with our stock but any trees recommended for more than a year survey would not be charged for the following years. If any trees need higher frequency, then it would be £15 per tree in a year.
- It is up to the PC if we want the tree risk management which is why it is charged separately. A QTRA only covers a year, but it is considered that if trees are a low risk then it can be done less frequently.
- The £400 is for being able to call on the HDC Officer in a tree-related situation for a year to organize, manage, request etc.

**Proposal: To outsource Tree Management and Maintenance to Huntingdonshire District Council
Arboricultural Department.**