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Trees and foliage overhanging the Highway



The StreetScene Enforcement Team have responsibility for enforcing against those trees on private property that, in some circumstances, overhang the public highway.

Trees on private property that overhang neighbouring properties are a civil matter between parties.

Disputes about Leylandii are usually an issue for planning enforcement against a charge for work.



The Council maintain trees in public parks and open spaces. They also have a responsibility for trees planted on the public highway.

The most frequent complaints about public trees are:

1. Epicormic Growth (Spurs)
2. Footway and property damage
3. Fruit fall



Trees over hanging the public highway from private property which cause obstruction, danger or obstruct a street lamp are usually dealt with by the serving of a notice under the Highways Act 1980

S.S.E. are now applying the Community Protection Warning and Notice in conjunction with the Highways Notice. It adds teeth much earlier in the process.



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- The previous slides show the outcome of a positive outcome by SSE staff and a compliant resident.
- It is not always so easy, sometimes it takes a long time to resolve issues because of the circumstances.
- We may even have to carry out works in default and recover Council expenses through the County Court.



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2 October 2014 08:35:31



12 January 2016 10:10:02



12 January 2016 10:08:46



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- Occasionally we receive complaints about the perceived officious or threatening nature of the notice.
- This is because the law requires us to advise recipients of the potential consequences of non-compliance.
- Our approach is to engage, educate, encourage and enforce. An approach which members agreed upon in 2005.



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Thank you – do you have any
questions?