

REPORT OF THE LANDSCAPE OFFICER (ARBORICULTURE)
TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
7 JULY 2006

Vale of White Horse Tree Policy

1.0 Introduction and Report Summary

- 1.1 The Government recognizes the value of trees and the need to plan for a more sustainable future so it encourages Local Authorities to produce long term plans for the care of its trees. This policy document is our response to this encouragement and it sets out a series of actions that will help maintain and increase the number of trees within the Vale.
- 1.3 The contact officer for this report is George Reade, Landscape Officer (Arboriculture) 01235 520202 x 504.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 *that the Council adopts the policy document.*

3.0 Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies

This report relates to the Council's Vision in that it supports objectives A, D and G.

4.0 Background Information.

- 4.1 This is the first time the District Council has set out its plans for trees throughout the Vale and it is important for a number of reasons.
- Firstly, it shows the Council's long term commitment to maintaining and improving its tree stock by itemising what works it will and will not carry out and what it will sanction other tree owners doing. It also underlines the importance of tree planting and woodland maintenance. Tree protection, through the law and by advice, is outlined along with the need to retain and maintain trees in relation to development.
 - Secondly, by having a document such as this there is the ability to achieve a continuity of approach in the way we handle trees. Most of the policies are long term and, if approved, it means these aims can be carried on into the future.
 - Thirdly, the public has an understanding of the Council's aims and reasons for tree work or a refusal to carry out requested work. It is hoped that, in time, a pro active way of working will be more efficient than the current ad hoc system.
- 4.2 This document shows that the Council regards trees as an asset that adds to the local community and to the environment, an asset that should be protected and encouraged to grow.

Steve Bishop
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

Background Papers:

1. Report 138/00 A Tree Strategy for the Vale of White Horse District Council
2. DeTR report 1993