

APPENDIX 1: TREE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

The Strategy Document

Years 1-5	Year 6 onwards
Ensure that the document becomes a source of reference for the Council with regards to the on-going management of its trees and those that are subject to TPOs or contained within Conservation Areas	Review the document and assess the impact of years 1-5

Consultation

Years 1-5	Year 6 onwards
Create and establish links and projects with existing 'Friends of', 'In Bloom' groups, Tree Wardens, Ward Councillors and Parish Councillors	Review the document and assess the impact of years 1-5
Continue to develop the Council's Arboricultural web-pages and upload all relevant information that would be appropriate and necessary in keeping the general public abreast of information	Review the web-pages and assess the impact of years 1-5

The Tree Survey Strategy

Years 1-5	Year 6 onwards
Adhere to the survey strategy requirements and continue, where necessary, to develop any areas of the strategy itself that identify themselves as being inadequate or warranting review	Review the survey strategy and assess the impact of years 1-5
Continue to strive to survey 20% of the Council tree stock on an annual basis, so as to meet the maximum 5-year survey schedule	Review whether 100% of the tree stock has been surveyed in the previous 5-year survey period Identify the priority areas for the following 12-month & 5-year periods
Continue to prioritise and undertake all works resulting from the tree survey within the designated priority timeframes	Review the works programme and associated timeframes and where necessary, make appropriate changes
Continue to develop the Computerised Tree Management Programme and associated software	Review the systems capabilities and the impact of years 1-5

Continue to develop the Risk Assessment system (QTRA) and Valuation methodology for all Council trees	Review this on an annual basis and then review the entire system at Year 6
Continue to identify Veteran trees or any other tree of local or historical importance that may be located upon Council land	Assess the details annually and review how such data can be used to promote such trees

The Provision of Arboricultural Advice

Years 1-5	Year 6 onwards
Look at the possibility of producing information leaflets in relation to all areas of Arboricultural management and have those leaflets made available for the general public	Assess the impact of years 1-5
Continue to develop the Arboricultural web-pages and ensure that they are maintained as up-to-date as possible with relevant Arboricultural information	Review the web-pages and assess the impact of years 1-5

Woodland Management

Years 1-5	Year 6 onwards
Identify additional land on which to develop woodlands for recreational use and ecological purposes and in line with the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)	Assess the impact of years 1-5
Look to develop a 10-year management plan for each of the woodlands currently under the Council's management remit, one plan per year, with a view to completion for all sites in 2020	Assess the number of sites completed for years 1-5 Assess the long-term projections for the remaining sites to be completed
Look towards the establishment of support volunteer groups to encourage community involvement and Create links with existing volunteer groups and develop in other areas	Assess the impact of years 1-5
Source alternative funding to enable land purchase and woodland development and seek to expand existing woodlands	Assess the impact of years 1-5

Future Tree Planting

Years 1-5	Year 6 onwards
Continue to review, and where necessary source additional resources and funding for tree planting numbers in any given year	Assess the impact of years 1-5
Develop a priority list for sites that require new trees	Assess the impact of years 1-5
Where appropriate, use native tree species and develop a rationale for such use	Assess the impact of years 1-5
Seek to maintain a minimum of 2 for 1 replacement planting numbers in any given year for trees removed from Council land. These replacement trees should be a minimum of 10-12cm stem girth at the time of planting and numbers planted should exclude woodland planting numbers or whips	Review the numbers planted annually and assess the impact on felling and planting numbers for years 1-5
Encourage schools institutions and other land owners to develop community woodlands	Assess the impact of years 1-5
Encourage sponsors to support planting schemes on council land including memorial or commemorative woodlands to mark special people, places or events	Assess the impact of years 1-5
Continue to support the Trees in Memoriam planting scheme, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Harrogate	Assess the impact of years 1-5

Tree Preservation Orders

Years 1-5	Year 6 onwards
Continue to review and develop the Tree Preservation Order Amenity Assessment sheet	Review the document and assess the impact of years 1-5
Continue to strive to meet Arboricultural planning application return target numbers to the Planning Section at 90%+ per annum	Review success in this area and look to improve on target numbers, if applicable

APPENDIX 2:

TREE RISK MANAGEMENT – THE ARBORICULTURAL SURVEY STRATEGY

This document sets out minimum standards of inspection, competence and record keeping that the council will commit to.

The Council has a statutory duty of care under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Occupiers Liability Act 1999 to ensure that members of the public and staff are not to be put at risk because of any failure by the Council to take all reasonable precautions to ensure their safety. Risk Management is required under the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999. There is a need to inspect trees in or near public places, or adjacent to buildings or working areas to assess whether they represent a risk to life or property, and to take remedial action as appropriate.

As part of their Strategic Tree Risk Management program, the Council appointed an Arboricultural Surveyor in 2006, who's role is to specifically inspect all Council managed trees within our district boundaries on a 5-year rolling program.

What is the role of arborists in local government? Matheny & Clarke (1991) state:

*“The primary role of the arborist is to **develop management programs** for urban trees”.*

The risk of any damage or injury occurring as a result of tree failure is dependent on the nature and intensity of site usage. For example, a tree failure next to a busy highway is much more likely to cause injury than a similar event in a woodland or low frequency area, far away from roads or paths. The damage caused to a target in the event of failure in a tree can be total or partial, depending both on the nature of the target and the size and height of the tree or part of tree concerned.

Risk management plans should address methodology and process, the acceptability of risk and ensuring that other important factors are considered as part of the overall decision-making process (Norris, 2005).

Consultation with the Council's Corporate Improvement Officer has revealed an unacceptable level of risk associated with the Council's tree assets, where there is **no** defensible system in place. However, projections made **with** a defensible system in place have shown that these levels of risk are greatly reduced. Risk Matrix tables are set out on the following pages:

CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT - RISK MATRIX A:

Risk categories with no Defendable Tree Risk Management System in place

LIKELIHOOD (FREQUENCY)	V Likely	10 9					O3, O4	O5
	High	8 7					O2	O1
	Probable	6 5						O6
	Low	4 3						
	Unlikely	2 1						
			1 2	3 4	5 6	7 8	9 10	
			Negligible		Marginal		Critical	
SEVERITY (IMPACT)								

- Green:** Acceptable
- Amber:** Tolerable
- Red:** Unacceptable

CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT - RISK MATRIX B:

Projected risk categories with Defendable Tree Risk Management System in place

LIKELIHOOD (FREQUENCY)	V Likely	10 9									
	High	8 7									
	Probable	6 5									
	Low	4 3			D1, D3 D5	D2, D4					
	Unlikely	2 1			D6						
			1 2	3 4	5 6	7 8	9 10				
		Negligible		Marginal		Significant		Critical		Catastrophic	
SEVERITY (IMPACT)											

Green: Acceptable
Amber: Tolerable
Red: Unacceptable

CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT - RISK MATRIX KEY

Decision	Risk Ref	Description of risk	Severity	Frequency	Exposure	Total Risk Score	Consequences	Action Taken (controls currently in place)	Other Measures (potential controls & limiting factors)	Officer	Date Actioned / Reviewed
Do Nothing - retain existing arrangements	O1	Fail to recognise different levels of risk and reflect in inspection programme (3.1.1)	10	8		18	Large ageing trees in busy town centres inspected as often as smaller trees in quiet suburban areas.	Develop and implement a defensible tree risk management system.			
Adopt Defendable System	D1		6	3		9					
Do Nothing - retain existing arrangements	O2	Inspections carried out by under qualified officer (3.1.1)	8	7		15	Increases potential for not identifying problems, at all or in early stages.	Develop and implement a defensible tree risk management system.			
Adopt Defendable System	D2		8	3							
Do Nothing - retain existing arrangements	O3	Lack of dedicated funding for inspections (3.1.1)	8	9		17	Postponement and / or partial completion of survey. Some trees remain uninspected. Inspection regime called into question. Ultimately, incident, damage, negligence.	Develop and implement a defensible tree risk management system.			
Adopt Defendable System	D3		6	3		9					

Do Nothing - retain existing arrangements	O4	Limited scope: many trees not included in inspection program (3.1.1)	8	9	17	Council fails in its duty to maintain. Ultimately, incident, damage, claim of negligence.	Develop and implement a defendable tree risk management system.			
Adopt Defendable System	D4		8	3	11					
Do Nothing - retain existing arrangements	O5	Landmark case 1998 re foreseeable danger (2.2)	9	10	19	Foreseeable hazard not foreseen. No defence to negligence claim.	Develop and implement a defendable tree risk management system.			
Adopt Defendable System	D5		6	3	9					
Do Nothing - retain existing arrangements	O6	A tree with an identifiable defect is not inspected, the defect is not identified and the tree fails.	10	5	15	Loss of life, injury, damage to property. Failed duty of care. No insurance. Negligence (no defence). Significant financial cost. Criminal prosecution.	Develop and implement a defendable tree risk management system.			
Adopt Defendable System	D6		6	2	8					
Do Nothing - retain existing arrangements	O7	Insurance - to be completed			0					
Adopt Defendable System	D7				0					

HOW WE AIM TO IDENTIFY & MANAGE RISK FROM TREES

General:

Tree safety management is a matter of limiting the risk of significant harm from tree failure whilst maintaining the benefits conferred by trees. The survey strategy is dynamic due to the nature of its requirements and the fact that this is the first strategy to be implemented by the Council with regards to this type of management approach. The tree survey began in late 2006 and is subject to a 3-5 year rotational survey period. It is envisaged that all trees that fall under Harrogate Borough Council's management remit will have been surveyed and their details captured and stored on the Council's computerised management system by the end of 2011. As the 5-year timeframe is the maximum it would be expected to complete the initial programme itself, it is envisaged that following the completion of the initial 5-year period then all future survey works should be targeted to be completed within 3-years if possible.

A full review of the survey data will be undertaken following completion of the first 5-year survey deadline in 2011. At that time, it should have become evident approximately how many trees are subject to this survey and where they are located in terms of their survey priority. Upon completion of the initial 5-year survey period, individual trees, tree groups, woodland fringes and any other specific or important trees should have been categorised so as to then fit into a suitable survey priority category for the following survey period, beginning 2011 and ending 2016.

Once all trees, groups, woodlands, etc have been priority categorised, this will allow for the current strategy document to become much more rigid in terms of its timeframes for individual site survey priority.

Tree Risk Management (Quantified Tree Risk Assessment):

The Council's Arboricultural Officers are currently licensed users of the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment system (QTRA). The QTRA approach underpins how sites themselves are determined in terms of their priority for survey. Although it may seem counter intuitive, the condition of trees should not be the first consideration. Instead, the Council should consider first the usage of the land on which the trees stand, which in turn will inform the process of assessing the trees.

The QTRA system applies established and accepted risk management principles to tree safety management. Firstly, the targets (people and property) upon which trees could fail are assessed and quantified, thus enabling tree managers to determine whether or not and to what degree of rigour a survey or inspection of the trees is required. Where necessary, the tree or branch is then considered in terms of both impact potential (size) and probability of failure. Values derived from the assessment of these three components (target, impact potential and probability of failure) are combined to calculate the probability of significant harm occurring.

The system moves the management of tree safety away from labeling trees as either 'safe' or 'unsafe', thereby requiring definitive statements of tree safety. QTRA therefore quantifies the risk of significant harm from tree failure in a way that enables the Council to balance safety with tree value and operate to a predetermined limit of reasonable or acceptable risk.

At this time, that level of risk, or threshold requiring the tree to be looked at in closer detail, is currently set at 1:10,000. This was agreed as acceptable at a meeting held on the 17 May 2010 between the Council's Insurer, the Council's Health & Safety Adviser, Systems & Insurance Officer and Arboricultural Manager. Should the Council's insurers wish to review this threshold at any point in the future, this will require agreements between the Council and the insurer prior to the Arboricultural section changing the survey strategy itself.

The Tree Survey Strategy Priorities:

The Tree Survey Strategy is TARGET led and is based upon prioritising the surveying and scheduling of works within higher frequency of use areas, rather than other lower frequency areas.

Tree hazard evaluation involves three primary components:

1. The probability of failure of the tree or part of it
2. The size of the part most likely to fail
3. The 'value' of the targets present (persons, property etc)

The Risk of Harm (RoH) is the fundamental way that we express 'Risk'. Therefore it is logical that if we assume that a higher RoH equals higher risk than lower RoH and to then use this as a ranking system, where the owner of the risk then undertakes work from the highest risk down. At least we are then providing a defence on what is 'reasonable'.

It is sufficient initially to look for external signs that may indicate that a hazard exists. If no significant hazard is revealed, further action is not generally required until the next inspection. If evidence of a hazard is found, on trees in medium or low-risk zones, more detailed investigation by the Arboricultural Officer would be advisable where:

- The full extent of the suspected hazard is not clear from external examination
- The tree is of high value (e.g. for amenity or wildlife) and there is reason to believe that it cannot be made safe without significantly lessening its value

Although it is recognised that ivy and other climbing plants do not actually kill trees and have wildlife benefits, the presence of such plants can make inspections very difficult and time consuming. Ivy also, when grown into the crown of trees, can add to the "sail" and weight and, in that way, makes a tree potentially more hazardous. It is proposed therefore, where trees in high-risk zones have significant ivy (or other climber) growth, to have them severed at the tree base to reduce the risk of wind-blow/branch breakage and improve inspector "access".

A general principle to be observed is that, in areas where people or property could be at risk from tree failure, routine inspections should be carried out frequently enough to detect any hazards that may have recently developed. Hazards from large old trees sometimes develop quite rapidly, for which reason an annual inspection is generally advisable where such trees occur on high-usage sites. Basic inspections, by way of a "drive by" or "walkover" exercise particularly in high risk zones, should also be made as soon as practicable after any exceptionally severe weather event that might have caused damage to tree.

Tree Surveys:

The tree survey proposals are based upon the Tree Surveyor dedicating 3 out of 5 working days per week to the actual surveying of trees.

It will be expected that at the beginning of each working week the Tree Surveyor agree with the Arboricultural Manager the proposed days that they intend to be out surveying for that week. That information can then be presented to their Line Managers if/when requested, either at the start of each week or during their monthly meetings.

In terms of survey numbers, the following targets are specified in line with average numbers surveyed by other industry professionals:

- Daily survey total numbers for individual trees per site and where single site visits will take up the majority or whole of the survey day: 100 (minimum)
- Monthly survey totals for individual trees where multiple site visits may be required and where tree numbers may be low per site: 500 (minimum)

It is accepted that in certain situations, i.e. heavy rain, extreme levels of cold, etc. the surveyor may not, and would not be expected to spend significant levels of time surveying on those days. However, where rain is not prolonged or deemed heavy, it will be expected that as the Tree Surveyor is equipped with waterproof clothing and the TreeWise tablet is waterproof itself, then there can be no reason for such surveys being undertaken. It is therefore expected that surveying operations would not cease when certain weather conditions would still allow for trees to be surveyed. This approach will help to maintain a realistic approach to the meeting the targets that are set in terms of tree numbers surveyed in any given period.

The Tree Survey Strategy Action Plan:

Years 1-5	Year 6 onwards
Adhere to the survey strategy requirements and continue, where necessary, to develop any areas of the strategy itself that identify themselves as being inadequate or warranting review	Review the survey strategy and assess the impact of years 1-5
Continue to strive to survey 20% of the Council tree stock on an annual basis, so as to meet the maximum 5-year survey schedule	Review whether 100% of the tree stock has been surveyed in the previous 5-year survey period Identify the priority areas for the following 12-month & 5-year periods
Continue to prioritise and undertake all works resulting from the tree survey within the designated priority timeframes	Review the works programme and associated timeframes and where necessary, make appropriate changes
Continue to develop the Computerised Tree Management Programme and associated software	Review the systems capabilities and the impact of years 1-5
Continue to develop the Risk Assessment system (QTRA) and Valuation methodology for all Council trees	Review this on an annual basis and then review the entire system at Year 6
Continue to identify Veteran trees or any other tree of local or historical importance that may be located upon Council land	Assess the details annually and review how such data can be used to promote such trees

THE SURVEY STRATEGY & PRIORITIES – TARGET & INSPECTION LEVEL CHART

RISK PRIORITY	TARGETS (TREES ADJOINING OR WITHIN FALLING DISTANCE OF)	FREQUENCY OF ASSESSMENT & COMPETENCY OF THE INSPECTOR
HIGH	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Motorway routes (363 - 47,000 vehicles per day traveling at 32-68mph) 2. Dual Carriageways (363 - 47,000 vehicles per day traveling at 32-68mph) 3. A-roads (363 - 47,000 vehicles per day traveling at 32-68mph) 4. B-roads (363 - 47,000 vehicles per day traveling at 32-68mph) 5. Principle Roads in built up areas attaching pedestrian rates over 36 per hour (constant usage) 6. High-use Parks/Public areas with permanent structures in excess of £50,000 and a constant target (Seasonally affected pedestrian figures should be considered and priorities adjusted if applicable) 7. Permanently habited structures with a value in excess of £50,000 8. Known informal recreation “hotspots” used for impromptu “gatherings” 9. Car park areas adjacent to high use public areas (constant usage) 10. Public footpaths and/or access ways with greater than 36 pedestrians per hour frequency 11. Individual trees or neighbourhoods with very high-risk tree characteristics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing dead trees or those with very poor condition class ratings severely • Storm damaged trees • Trees that visually obstruct traffic signs, traffic lights or street lamps • Tree roots causing severe footpath buckling (refer to Highways guidelines on 'severe') 12. Railway lines 13. Woodland sites with footpaths attaching pedestrian rates over 36 per hour (constant usage) 14. Emergency access routes 	<p>All trees subject to the 3-5 year rotational detailed inspection.</p> <p>Trees at points 1 to 4 receive a drive-by/walkover inspection periodically between 12-18 months (leaf on – leaf off)</p> <p>Survey to be undertaken by a Level 2 qualified inspector</p>

<p>MEDIUM</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. B-roads & suburban roads, streets, avenues etc. with pedestrian rates between 1 – 36 per hour & structures valued at £1,000 – £50,000 (0-65 vehicles per day traveling at up to 68mph) 2. Parks/Public areas attaching informal play areas, minor paths, grass recreation areas with pedestrian rates between 1 – 36 per hour & structures valued at £1,000 – £50,000 (Seasonally affected pedestrian figures should be considered and priorities adjusted if applicable) 3. Car parks adjacent to areas with pedestrian rates between 1 – 36 per hour 4. Cemetery sites 5. Bus stops in high use thoroughfares 6. Individual trees within certain locations with pedestrian rates between 1 – 36 per hour and attaching tree risk characteristics, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old (senescent) and veteran trees • High density of large, mature or known “problem” tree species • Areas of recent root disturbance such as footway reconstruction, trenching, drainage etc. 7. Woodland sites with footpaths attaching pedestrian rates between 1 – 36 per hour 8. Public footpaths and/or access ways with pedestrian rates between 1 – 36 per hour 	<p>All trees subject to a 3-5 year rotational detailed inspection.</p> <p>Trees at point 1 to receive a drive-by/walkover inspection periodically between 12-18 months (leaf on – leaf off)</p> <p>Survey to be undertaken by a Level 2 qualified inspector</p>
<p>LOW</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secondary and low use roads with no vehicles per day, pedestrian rates lower than 1 per hour and structures up to £1,000 2. Public areas with dispersed recreation e.g. fishing points 3. Public open space areas, woodlands, play areas, picnic areas, riparian and peripheral areas with limited use or access and pedestrian rates lower than 1 per hour and structures up to £1,000 <p>* Seasonally affected pedestrian figures should be considered and priorities adjusted for all of the above if applicable</p>	<p>All trees subject to a 3-5 year rotational detailed inspection.</p> <p>Survey to be undertaken by a Level 2 qualified inspector</p>

LEVEL OF INSPECTION EXPLAINED

3-5 Year Rotation:

Assessed by means of scheduled systematic visual assessment initially from ground level. Where necessary, further detailed investigation of potential structural weakness may be needed involving aerial inspections, soil and root condition or other procedures for assessing the nature of decay, wood quality or internal stem condition.

Drive-by/Walkover:

Trees are assessed within the recommended course of visits through general observation of health and condition and identification of obvious structural or physiological changes, mechanical defects or failure. Details of when the inspection was undertaken should be logged and any recommendations placed onto the tree work schedule and undertaken in due course, dependent upon their level of priority.

For practical reasons, where sites are largely medium risk, for example, but do have a couple of minor stretches of high-risk areas, it is down to the Arboricultural Manager to decide whether it makes sense to join these high-risk stretches together for the Arboricultural Surveyor to inspect. However, if the high-risk stretches only contain low-risk trees or ones which are healthy and easy to monitor on an annual basis, a decision made be made on the basis to mark the entire area as medium risk. Such decisions must be clearly recorded.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

The budget set aside for Tree Management should be used for Tree Risk Management as priority and, in the main, should address the more immediate concerns. Unless such works are considered a 'High priority', tree work paid out of this budget will not cover works to address issues such as leaf fall, overshadowing, minor pavement disruption, subsidence etc, crown-lifting for access, other pruning for amenity purposes or woodland management type operations.

Having embarked on a pro-active risk management approach, the Council cannot reasonably be expected to “catch-up” on many decades of limited programmed activity in this respect, within a very short time-span.

Considering the extent of HBC tree cover, it will be important to make the budget go as far as possible by prioritising and pacing the survey work. However, it is equally important to ensure that Inspector output, in terms of identification of hazards, is matched by actual tree work to address those hazards. If identified hazards are not dealt with within a reasonable period due to unavailable budgets or re-directed lower priorities, the Council would still be negligent if harm occurred as a consequence.

APPENDIX 3:

LIST OF THOSE CONSULTED ON DRAFT TREES & WOODLANDS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY DOCUMENT (6 FEBRUARY - 1 MAY 2009)

All Town & Parish Councils

All Ward Councillors

Harrogate District Panel

Harrogate Borough Council's Planning, Housing, Highways, Finance and Legal Sections

Boroughbridge in Bloom	Knox Valley Residents Association
Darley in Bloom	Knaresborough Lions
Hampsthwaite in Bloom	Rotary Club of Ripon
Harrogate in Bloom	Rotary Club of Harrogate
Kirkby Malzeard in Bloom	Spa Garden Forum
Knaresborough in Bloom	Stonefall Cemetery Friends Group
Laverton in Bloom	Friends of Bachelor Gardens
Pateley Bridge in Bloom	Harrogate and District Allotments Federation
Ripon in Bloom	Tidy Gardens Group
Sawley in Bloom	Yorkshire Agricultural Society
Spofforth with Stockeld in Bloom	Harrogate Lions
Starbeck in Bloom	Valley Gardens Orienteering
Bilton Conservation Group	Open Country
Friends of Bebra Gardens	The Walled Garden
Killinghall Moor Conservation Group	Ripon Lions
Pateley Bridge Friends Group Secretary	Ripon Allotments Society
Pinewoods Conservation Group	Ripon Flower Club

NYCC Environmental Services

Forestry Commission

- The draft document was advertised on the Council's web site, and the adopted document will also be placed on the web site at: www.harrogate.gov.uk/harrogate-5700
- The draft document was advertised on the Council's Intranet for all Council staff to comment
- A paper copy of the document was left at the reception at Crescent Gardens for public viewing
- The consultation was advertised in the local press

APPENDIX 4:

CONSULTEES COMMENTS & IDENTIFIED CHANGES TO THE DRAFT DOCUMENT

CONSULTATION QUESTION	CONSULTEE COMMENTS	CHANGE TO TREES & WOODLAND POLICY
<p>Q17: When considering the overall Tree Policy, do you feel enough consideration is given towards the protection of wildlife and wildlife and landscape conservation?</p>	<p>Planning & Development</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Depends on wildlife, which is rarely mentioned on planning and TPO applications. 2. A more universal approach rather than a money making venture for individual investments, e.g. 144 flats built on Coppice Drive when permission was given for 12 initially. 3. Stop putting roads through the middle of woodlands. 4. Expanding housing projects destroying wildlife habitats, which seem not to be replaced. The Stray is a large experience of land that could be tree planted to have pleasant walks not just dog walkers and footballers as at the moment. 5. More consideration should always be given to existing trees when creating planning permission. 6. I know you inform Badger Group about planning applications, but not the local RSPB. How many other local groups with expertise and local knowledge are not consulted? I know it slows the process but their information is sound and free. 7. Block planning application in areas of natural beauty and habitat (e.g. Abbey Road - Knaresborough). 8. Limit building sites and preserve more natural beauty spots and countryside. E.g. No waste sites in Bar Lane, Knaresborough or anymore building work near Hay-A-Way Park. 9. Home owners should not be given planning permission to chop down trees 	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant section.</p>

	<p>just to give them a better view out of their windows and gardens where birds may nest or other wildlife use the trees and surrounding.</p> <p>10. There was a revolting development in Hampsthwaite where some beautiful trees were cut down. The council ignored this and put up monstrosities and completely ruined an area of outstanding natural beauty and endangered wildlife. They did not listen to residents.</p> <p>11. Stop taking the lands and trees off the animals.</p> <p>12. When new estates are built, the company in charge seems to have no hesitation in cutting and getting rid of existing trees. I witnessed this first hand on the former Harrogate Hospitals ground where more than 70% of the trees, some protected too, disappeared.</p> <p>13. The power in the subject of trees is all with developers - even when tree conservation orders are in place, developers pay no heed and a mature tree cannot be replaced after it has been removed.</p> <p>14. Too many areas are concreted over (after trees removed). Front gardens of homes for parking therefore affecting wildlife.</p> <p>15. In urban development areas and renovation areas almost no consideration is offered on the impact of wildlife often cost being the major factor than safety even at the expense of wildlife that were here long before any education on building and development methods should be available for all of construction however small.</p> <p>16. Sometimes there could be an effort to improve tree coverage rather than maintain it. If a developer wants to fell a tree consider it if that developer would create an arboreal area. Think improvement not just conservation.</p> <p>17. Landscaping to be included in housing planning applications (outlined not detailed) Also water run-off</p>	
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	<p>consideration.</p> <p>More Planting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By planting trees and shrubs that will enhance all wildlife. By planting trees, etc, that are beneficial not ornamental, shrubs that benefit both birds and insects, leave some areas totally alone and let nature do its work, to quote "Life will find a way" (Jurassic Park). 2. By replacing all trees that are felled. In my area, 6 mature native species - all with tree preservation orders - have been felled and none has been replaced. It's a disgrace. 3. Within the area as we know it, tree preservation care is sadly lacking and therefore wildlife and the conservation is badly affected. The planting of trees seems lacking. The removal of hedges has been disastrous and the care of those left and the trees poor. 4. Planting a variety of species of trees as well as shrubs to help wildlife. 5. I think fruit trees would be nice planted in parks and the wildlife will follow such as bees and bugs. 6. I suppose I'm pro woodland and would like for all the development of new woodland areas. 7. Some areas of the district council have a landscape that is sparse for tree cover and this should be maintained. 8. Whilst supporting in general the concept of our planting native trees, allowance should be made for non native, i.e. Scots Pine. 9. More can be done with consideration to not only the trees but planting around them to encourage wildlife, etc. 10. More planting to help birds with declining populations. 11. More trees should be planted. 12. Planting trees in parkland and grassed areas well in from the roadside where possible. 13. Replacement of trees in appropriate place when grubbed out for land developments. 	<p>All comments considered. Additional information included within the document at page 19, Policy 25 & 26.</p>
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	<p>14. Better protection in woodland situations i.e. exclusion zones. Retention of trees for habitat purposes in open space, cemetery and woodland situations.</p> <p>15. Decreasing wildlife must be given more protection and consideration, particularly when new development takes place and landscape conservation must be given more protection through the planning department. Also, trees on private land must be given more protection - neighbours cut down trees willy-nilly with no thought of the local habitat - because they think that it looks tidy and enhances their property value. It would be better to ask each householder how many and what type of trees they have in their garden and bordering their land to gain a better knowledge of what local wildlife it can sustain and it should be forbidden to chop down any tree without permission to preserve our landscape and wildlife</p> <p>Tree Removal</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No tree should be removed because of Health & Safety. 2. The Council should proactively assess local environments and protect trees that provide valuable wildlife habitat. At present, I don't believe that this is being done effectively. 3. Replacement planting of a ratio of 4 for 1 - rather than the removal of trees under Health and Safety issues - none considering the improvement of trees, fences to keep children off them, etc. 4. Too often trees disappear with alarming swiftness. Is enough thought given to this? 5. Trees should only be felled as a last resort and not for developers' convenience. 6. Sometimes healthy trees should be removed to improve a landscape. The policy does not allow this. 7. I feel trees should be inspected for deterioration and safety as some did fall 	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>in the Pinewoods despite anxiety to myself and consequent reports by phone and assurance that they would be dealt with.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Should remove trees/ hedgerows only when absolutely essential. The council has vandalised some mature trees in this area in the past, where they are needed for windbreaks and for shelter and nesting by birds. 9. Trees should only be removed if there is the same type of habitat nearby to sustain misplaced wildlife. 10. Native broad-leaved trees should be planted as these offer protection and habitat for wildlife. Trees should not be removed unless diseased or in danger of causing damage to human life or property. The London plane trees on Hambleton Grove, Knaresborough being a prime example - the roots of one or two were causing a hazard but some of the remainder were not a danger. 11. I feel at present that inadequate consideration is given towards the protection of trees locally. 12. Trees should only be removed if unavoidable <p>Leave Wild</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Things are too regimental nowadays, need more wild areas for hedgehogs, etc (real nature). 2. Question 16 - Wildlife habitat is not just about tree cover but also needs to include hedgerow habitat as well. Many pollinators need this type of habitat as well as birds. 3. Perhaps by making areas into official wildlife conservation areas. 4. Should keep more undergrowth, which protects wildlife. 5. There must be areas where the immediate grass areas should be left (i.e. not mown) together with adjacent hedges encouraging wildlife. 6. Wildlife is very important to the environment and trees can be 	<p>All comments considered. Additional information included within the document at page 43, Policy 14 & page 45, Policy 8.</p>
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	<p>detrimental to insects, birds, squirrels, etc.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. There is too much emphasis on making the town environment look tidy. For wildlife to proliferate we need to tolerate an environment that may look unkempt. 8. Public access seems to dominate everywhere. Even Harlow Garden RHS. We don't seem to have any urban foxes for example. 9. Leave dead and decaying wood in sites whenever possible. Don't cut grass or tidy up amongst trees. Remove introduced species and replace with natives. Plant some native fruit and nut bearing trees. 10. More areas where there are groups of trees, should be left wild, the grass and other plants left to grow. This provides areas of cover for small mammals, which in turn are food for such beautiful birds as owls and other birds of prey. 11. In some areas there is a tendency to plant new woodlands in well liked open spaces. An open space is not detrimental to wildlife, it benefits a different wildlife to that of woodland. In years to come some woodlands will obliterate good views. That is a pity. It is fashionable to donate money for tree planting and in the haste to accept gifts it is my belief that in some cases not enough thought has been given to long-term landscape implications. <p>Experts/Science/Consultation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A blanket 5-year strategy is pointless. Inspect on the basis of need, from annually for trees/areas at risk to longer periods for low risk. 2. This is a question for science, the whole pyramid of type should be considered, there is little point in looking after trees alone if the wildlife, insects and microbes do not benefit as well. It has been proved time and again that native species left alone, without human intervention, thrive. The best and cheapest way for the land to be 	<p>All comments considered. Additional information included within the document at page 37, Policy 57 & page 39, Policies 61-67</p>
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	<p>preserved is to ban humans from entering that area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Call in the experts, rather than just planning officers. 4. Not enough consultation with people with the relevant knowledge regarding wildlife, etc. 5. Research. 6. Wider consultation with wildlife organisations. 7. Wildlife impact assessment should be done. 8. By thorough investigation of numbers of wildlife, nesting, habitation, etc. 9. Apply to date knowledge specific to particular areas. Time often alters situations, e.g. climate change. 10. Need to consult with local environmental groups. <p>Inform/Involve</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indicate by notices areas of wildlife and landscape conservation. Use of local press to inform and update site of such areas. Approach neighbouring schools to adopt a site. Inform schools of policies and improvements of these areas. 2. More consideration to be given to having more sites for birds, e.g. bird watching facilities such as hides, which promote awareness of protection for birds. 3. Close consideration with local people. 4. As suggested at question 14, information should be gathered from those living locally before tree felling takes place. 5. Give local residents an opportunity to contribute financially and directly to tree planting in their area. Also encourage volunteers to help with tree planting to keep down the costs. 6. Must have a hands on of more gardens 7. More public input. 8. It would be good to see the promotion of protection and education of residents. It would be ideal if the Council made significant funding for this 	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>but I guess funding for everything right now is quite limited.</p> <p>Conservation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An opportunity here for enhancing areas where there are special landscape qualities to boost wildlife numbers and protection areas. 2. More specific conservation areas should be set up and managed by the council. 3. Too many transport drives and parking causing erosion of landscape. 4. More consideration should be given to the protection of wildlife. 5. We should not only protect wildlife and landscape, we should make them more accessible to residents. The more people who see and visit them the more likely they will help with conservation. 6. Enforce conservation of wildlife and landscape more effectively. <p>Boxes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bird and bat boxes. Emphasis on encouraging biodiversity. 2. Use of poisons for pest control that do not affect birds - e.g. eradibait. Erection of nest boxes. Encouraging residents to feed birds and plant trees, by selling bird food, etc through the council. Maybe via a link from the council site to a local tree supplier, bird food supplier, which they offer a discount. 3. I haven't seen any bird boxes on trees other than privately erected ones. It would be nice to see some supplied as habitats are diminishing. As well as trees - typical woodland foliage and shrubs need to be encouraged so that sufficient foraging is available for birds and other wildlife. Presumably adequate precautions are made when work is carried out in woodland areas - in order to avoid disturbing ground dwelling animals. 4. Put bat boxes in trees. 5. Increased numbers of nest boxes for 	<p>All comments considered. Additional information included within the document at page 37, Policy 57 & page 39, Policies 61-67.</p> <p>All comments considered. Additional information included within the document at page 38, Policy 67.</p>
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	<p>insects, birds and their wildlife would be very beneficial to the environment at relatively low cost. Also the grey squirrel population needs to be managed better, i.e. increased (or instigation of) culling.</p> <p>Wider Area</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look at what tree felling does in relation to wider landscape rather than just immediate vicinity. 2. Check early, years ahead of development applications to allow wildlife to "find" corridors to adjacent areas if wholesale felling is to occur. Plant these corridors if not extant. 3. There seems to be less habitat for a lot of the wildlife, maybe this should be taken into consideration. 4. The transformation of Killinghall into playing fields - even with the nature boundary is not enough. <p>Priority</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I think that sometimes the council is too reactive to pressure from individuals. Wildlife and landscape conservation should always be the priorities. 2. Wildlife seems to take a back seat where money costs have to be taken in consideration. 3. I feel in this financial climate if trees and wildlife need to be sacrificed for the sake of new industry then they will be. 4. I think that consideration needs to be given to the proportions of each species of tree to the total number. Native trees should be given priority to encourage dependant insect life, particularly beetles and moths. <p>Correct Pruning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pruning at the right time of the year. Removing of old trees and debris. 2. Feel that there is a tendency to over tidy - particularly in urban areas. Trees should not be over pruned/ thinned as 	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p> <p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p> <p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the</p>
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<p>Q19: Please outline any additional comments that you feel may be appropriate and relevant to the final Trees and Woodlands document</p>	<p>importance to wildlife from people.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. I think more consideration should be given to the linking of tree habitats. 7. Please conserve the natural habitat of wildlife and fauna. 8. Area of trees are overused and untidy 9. Large and powerful organisations in particular. 10. Footpaths should be on the fringe of treescapes not through the middle. <p>Individual Consideration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More Consideration should be given. If you do not allow trees to be taken down, you discourage private owners from planting trees. Some trees that are too near houses and take too much light should be allowed to be felled. 2. Trees are wonderful to see if grown in the right place, i.e. not near properties that will in future years be affected by loss of light, overshadowing or possible structural damage. In the past it would seem that no consideration has been given to how tall or wide a tree will grow when planted on HBC land - only then to hear that it can't be cut down as it is a healthy tree, even if it is affecting people's lives! All tree planting on HBC land should be put out to local consultation. 3. Question 18, Part 5 - Each area of woodland should be given individual consideration, there should not be an overall rule. Consideration should be given to the species of trees, ages of the trees, proximity to houses, locations of footpaths, unusual flora and fauna, proximity to other woodland areas which have/ have not public access. 4. Question 15 - This statement is true for development sites, but an intrusion for privately owned land. 5. There is too much red tape over normal maintenance of trees in a conservation area. Should the council not authorise local tree maintenance firms to get on with that work often informing you in 	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>advance.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Too many trees have preservation orders, some that do not merit it e.g. sycamores. We should concentrate on trees beneficial to wildlife e.g. oak and beech.7. Whilst I support tree planting and woodlands I believe that some TPO's are inappropriate as trees can grow to enormous proportions over 40 years in residential areas and need to be reviewed with common sense.8. As the owner of a large area of woodland in Nidderdale I think the policy of native trees only is too restrictive in conjunction with the forestry commission I have planted new woodlands.9. Where trees are subject to a preservation order council should be more flexible with regard to request for removal e.g. a tree planted 50 years ago might now be far too big for a place in which it is situated such as back gardens.10. Question 5. Difficult to answer. If a private house has a tree that they feel is in the way of them being able to do what they want to do in their garden I feel it should be there choice to do what they want to do.11. Some species are inappropriate for urban sites due to size and should be replaced with more suitable (and attractive) alternatives.12. I agree in principal to the trees and woodlands policy, however it needs to be balanced with individual reference for people that may want to cut a single tree in their private garden. The section about private land should focus on large areas where people sell land to developers and a number of trees may be lost. Individuals in smaller properties should still have a choice.13. Trees planted should be predominantly native (especially oaks) trees above/ next to roads/ paths, etc should be kept trimmed back from the rights of way and to a height 16'6" above the roads	
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	<p>and clear of electrical/ communications wires to minimise accidents and therefore insurance claims. Currently this does not seem to be the case.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="470 342 1114 672">14. Try to be more accommodating to private individuals who want or need to remove a tree on their land. Maybe allow them easier removal terms if they pay for the planting of say five new trees of a similar type to be planted on council land. That way a problem tree can be removed but five more will be planted.<li data-bbox="470 674 1114 929">15. Any large tree (higher than 30ft) that is close to housing, should be felled. Not only do large trees present a hazard in that they could fall down, but they can block out sunlight - this is not good for helping houses to reduce their carbon footprint.<li data-bbox="470 931 1114 1108">16. I agree that all trees need to be preserved but would ask that more consideration be given to requests for the crowning and pruning of large trees close to property.<li data-bbox="470 1111 1114 1512">17. I like trees and think they are important but the strategy should be not go overboard as there must be many pressing (more important) calls on resources such as housing and social services. The TPO scheme seems to work well in protecting the more prestigious trees such as chestnut, oak, ash and beech, which I support, but less attention is warranted on other species such as sycamore and poplar.<li data-bbox="470 1514 1114 1691">18. In relation to question 18 and the issue of conservation against recreation I think each case should be judged on its merits rather than a blanket decision either way.<li data-bbox="470 1693 1114 1948">19. Where council owns trees subject to conservation orders etc about onto private gardens, the council should attend to removal of overhanging growth, etc, and should help with removal of dead leaves from the overhanging gardens.<li data-bbox="470 1951 1114 2024">20. Woodland trees and other larger trees should not be in private gardens. The	
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	<p>roots can damage underground pipes and can damage houses.</p> <p>21. When trees cause problems to a neighbour and encroach on their land or overhang premises then action should be permissible to ensure the matter is ratified.</p> <p>22. Common sense must be applied. If a big tree is in a small garden then consideration should be given to an alternative site for the required replacement planting.</p> <p>23. Woodland tree should not be planted on housing estates. Silver birch seeds germinate in adjacent gardens, as do sycamores, which are far too big and oppressive to be planted near houses. Seeds and leaves are a problem for householders.</p> <p>In Favour of Trees</p> <p>1. Too many trees in gardens are planted without thought to their eventual size - these should not be covered by TPO. Old trees may be especially valuable for wildlife - retain this wherever possible. Native trees are most valuable - remembering the likely climate change over the life of the tree. Policy should extend to replanting in the AONB - no one has told me to replace any field boundary trees that fall.</p> <p>2. We feel that it is very important within any planting strategy that indigenous species are specified, to promote wildlife. Tree planting and other landscaping is a cheap and effective way of raising local amenities and should receive more emphasis from the Council.</p> <p>3. Harrogate should be an area of splendid trees and woodlands in keeping with its old traditions when it was the forest of Knaresborough.</p> <p>4. Harrogate has always looked after the tree population and one rarely sees a problem. Each year own property is assessed for branches overhanging the pavement. So from what I can see the</p>	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>council are doing a good job now.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. More trees can only be a good thing to have for the future. 6. As an ex rural habitant, I feel anything we can do to encourage wildlife is very important for our children and future generations. The UK would have been covered in natural woodland and we should support any policy to encourage the growth in native species density. 7. I think this is an excellent idea. 8. We love trees. 9. To have places to walk and look at trees and woodlands is good for your health and can stop you feeling depressed as long as it doesn't cost a lot. 10. Trees are important for many reasons notwithstanding they use/ remove tons of CO2 from the air. We should be planting on a big scale rurally as well as in the urban areas. To cut costs there are masses of seeds available in autumn. Collect/ germinate/ grow on these and in line with a 5-year plan they will be ready to plant in situ, this could minimise costs and maximise potential while also perhaps giving the opportunity to raise revenue by selling the surplus on to other councils/ authorities. 11. Overall tree cover in the UK is below European numbers, so it would be good to encourage planting of native trees. The policy document mentions that most public contacts about trees are complaints. Do appreciate that could be misleading. Try removing all trees from the district and see what reaction you get. Most of us simply enjoy them without writing to the council to say so. 12. Trees are essential for physical and mental health. They especially these indigenous to the UK take a long while to grow. 13. Trees and woodlands are vital especially more so when we are building more and more to accommodate an increasing population. I am also very concerned to see an 	
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	<p>ever-growing number of gardens turned into paved/ concrete over areas. Could there be a form of incentive even minor to people who nurture a garden and contribute to the balance of the eco system and appealing image of Harrogate.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">14. Trees and woodlands are important, especially somewhere such as Harrogate District which is an attractive area. But there are plenty of other important demands on council revenues, and trees and woodlands have to fit within other priorities.15. Should concentrate on the planting and management of native species including some rarer species in designated areas. These should also be planted relevant groups and settings.16. No mention of hedges within this questionnaire. Although the majority of people think of oak, beech, willow, in association of trees, many trees within Harrogate district form hedges particularly in fields and parks. I believe these hedges are as important as any tree or wooded area. Particularly when the local flora and fauna are associated, more should be done to protect our hedges, as they are becoming a rare commodity in our region.17. Traditional trees such as oak, ash, sycamore should be mixed with flowering trees e.g. cherry.18. Some woodland could be effectively managed as a source of income to the council by onward selling timber.19. I agree that trees are very important to the environment, especially in urban areas, and have a calming effect.20. This is a complex topic and I feel this questionnaire is too simplistic. I am pro trees but recognise they are living things with a life span.21. Although areas of woodland are extremely important, great impact is found from tree lined streets, etc. Harrogate is fortunate that the overall	
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	<p>impression is of a very open urbanisation which very few other towns can match.</p> <p>22. Very pleased to see this work. I would advocate an even stronger approach, based on considering where woodland / tree cover might become more predominant within the landscape. As it is beginning to be understood there are all sort of benefits of tree planting / increasing woodland: biodiversity, offsetting global warming, health, economic development, etc... How about re-establishing the Forest of Knaresborough in some form? Please keep me informed! ray.bryant@northyorks.gov.uk</p> <p>23. I would love to see many more trees in our hedgerows. They are not being replaced when they die and farmers no longer plant them (because it makes it harder to use a tractor to cut the hedges). Also, on our roadsides. Harrogate town is well planted but you don't have to go far to see hedgerows devoid of trees.</p> <p>Reduce Felling of Trees/Enforce TPO Replacement</p> <p>1. More consultation with people about areas where trees are being removed, i.e. the trees cut down between Millfield Glade and Harrogate Golf Club means that people playing golf can now see into my bedroom!</p> <p>2. Some of the planning applications for felling are not justified, I feel. When people buy a house they know the trees are there but then want to fell them to give them more space in the garden or avoid sweeping up the leaves in the autumn.</p> <p>3. Need to ensure that TPO's are actually monitored and enforced - else they are an expensive frivolity.</p> <p>4. Not enough publicity is given to proposed tree felling, etc. It is appalling that an area of beautiful trees and</p>	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>planting can suddenly disappear without anyone being able to stop it. E.g. the tree that stood outside of the fire station up until about 5 years ago.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. One tree felled is one too many unless for safety reasons. Occasionally safety is the excuse to remove a whole row of trees from a road even though there has never been an issue before - usually the forerunner of a road widening scheme. Woodland is one of the qualities of England and must be preserved for everyone to enjoy. 6. Ensure that residents also comply with council's initiatives to ensure their trees/ woodlands are also maintained. 7. Nothing much really - except that I cannot help but notice that in some places where trees have been removed they have not necessarily been replaced with trees in the same place or of the same kind. 8. Tree replacement. There is a major problem with regard to tree replacement. When permission is given to cut down a tree or trees, there is often a requirement to plant replacement trees (this is applicable to privately owned land) If the owner plants new trees that is good, however, if they don't there is no enforcement by the planning department to make sure they comply with the conditions. This problem should be rectified as a matter or priority. 9. It is quite obvious, trees are been removed for future housing (i.e. Pendragon Way off Harlow Moor Road). At present several building companies concerned have gone into receivership, result 1 single lady has flat (ground floor) facing onto oval. Having questioned lady sales person regarding pricing earlier, one of her answers was this is not for social housing use. 10. I do feel that when permission is given to residents to take down established trees on the understanding that new trees are planted in their place, that this 	
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	<p>should be followed up. Neighbours of mine took down lovely trees and never replanted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="470 309 1114 521">11. As you state large numbers of trees are in private ownership and every year you publish applications to remove large numbers of trees including various ornamental varieties such as cherry, etc.<li data-bbox="470 533 1114 779">12. Delighted to find that trees along the riverside in Knaresborough could be saved from house owners trying to eradicate them, however feel that a lot of views from the crag top have been lost (visitor attraction) where elders, etc, have grown rampant up the cliffs.<li data-bbox="470 790 1114 1216">13. Any new housing developer to pay for tree planting on site as part of 742: I have become concerned over several months (maybe years) at the amount of planning decisions taken (reported in the Advertiser) concerning the number of trees that are approved for removal due to private requests. There is a concentration in the Duchy area and I have been wondering if I will pursue a FOI request in this area, as I am so concerned about it.<li data-bbox="470 1227 1114 1552">14. Provisions to be made at planning stage, that developers of new building sites are legally bound to include a percentage of trees on their sites in order to be granted planning permission. Trees beautify urban developments - they are essential to the survival of this planet and the survival of wildlife.<li data-bbox="470 1563 1114 1776">15. I was dismayed when the oldest tree in Harrogate (on Victoria Avenue) was felled and don't remember seeing any notification that this was going to occur. It didn't seem to be a dying tree and therefore a potential hazard.<li data-bbox="470 1787 1114 2022">16. In my view once trees reach a certain level of maturity they ought to receive automatic protection as under tree preservation orders and require an application to fell. This could be refined by applying specific designated areas, e.g. Nidderdale AONB or other defined	
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	<p>areas on local maps.</p> <p>17. Some of the trees that line the main street of our village were pulled by concerned residents some years ago. They made a complete hash of the job. The council came along last year and did the lot in one go. It looks a bit drastic at the moment but they will all grow at the same rate. A job well done.</p> <p>Accessibility/public involvement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make these areas accessible - then people will feel involved. 2. Although exclusion of the general public is valid in certain circumstances, it should be limited only to a small number of key sites. Exclusion will require resources to enforce which might be better spent on planting additional trees, etc. 3. Woodlands should be enjoyed by all and all should be free to enjoy them especially public woodlands. 4. Woodland should only be maintained for public access when doing so does not impact on conservation demands. 5. Unless people are included, there are little understanding and consequent vandalism information boards in managed woodland areas about policy and species to be observed. 6. The public should have access to woodland sites which should be managed, primarily, for conservation. There is no reason why the public should not enjoy walks in woodland areas, as long as these sites are managed, mainly, for the benefit of wildlife. We currently have high levels of obesity and inactivity. I feel when managing all outdoor space it is important to encourage public access. Our outdoor space should not only be something pretty to look at, but something which makes it easier and more tempting to get out and about and be active. 7. Conservation will not work unless the 	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>public can have access and therefore appreciate the beauty of trees and woodlands.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Woodland should be used for leisure and pleasure for adults and play and adrenalins for children.9. Public access does not harm conservation paths and play areas should be provided.10. In built up areas trees and wildlife should be managed for humans to enjoy at the expense of the trees and wildlife well being. Outside of built up areas humans should be prevented from entering conservation areas altogether.11. I don't think woodland conservation should cut off access for the public unless it is very vulnerable, although of course there will be areas that have to be set aside. However over-zealousness of protection can be problematic.12. Trees are more than just decoration. Families with young kids need good activities that do not cost money therefore, cycle paths, walking paths in woodland areas are a great idea. Would make the area look good and help families help the environment.13. Although the main purpose of woodland management should be conservation, I think some should be managed for recreation/ information.14. All councillors should be able to find out all details from residents regarding the flora and fauna of our towns and work together for their alteration or improvement.15. Woodlands should be extended where possible and appropriate for public access and enjoyment.16. I am not even a layman on all above subjects. However I visit parts of Germany where it is a great pleasure to visit and walk in accessible woodlands and forests, which have footpaths, access roads (for cultivation purposes) facilities for rubbish and where appropriate some refreshment.	
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	<p>Balance Between Conservation & Recreation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some woodlands are ideal for recreational purposes and should be retained with this in mind. More remote woodlands should be conservation areas with limited public access i.e. study groups, schools, etc. 2. There needs to be a balance structure between tree conservation and other land use. Just because a tree has been there for a number of years does not mean it is still appropriate. Replacement trees, if sited correctly and a suitable species chosen will soon reach a size such that they enhance the landscape. It is also important that we learn to enjoy accessible woodland; it can be a real therapy from urban spaces. 3. A careful balance between public access and conservation for the natural benefit of both. 4. There should be a balance between woodland conservation and recreational use. 5. Trees and woodland and not there just to be looked at. They are there to be used as an amenity and to promote/sustain the natural life they sustain. Most woodland is best when not interfered with. Only do what you have to. Saves money too. 6. I consider that conservation needs and public access needs are finely balanced and both are important - I am reluctant to give one priority over the other. I also think they are closely linked in that public support for conservation would not be as forthcoming if there were too many exclusion zones. 7. We should definitely prioritise any remaining ancient woodland and a balance should be structured between conservation and biodiversity and recreation - not all woodland is suitable for the latter. 8. Areas adjoining Harrogate should be 	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>replanted to enhance and expand woodland provision combining leisure and woodland needs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. A balance needs to be struck. I do not feel it is appropriate for woodland paths to be chewed up by trail bike/quad bikes enthusiasts but space must be provided somewhere for those people to pursue those activities. 10. Ensure certain areas of woodland allowed to run wild, e.g. Birk Crag. Clear rubbish but leave other plant life for example fallen logs and bushes, etc. Not everywhere has to have a path round it. 11. A balance should be achieved between woodlands for conservation and access purpose. 12. I believe access and conservation should go hand in hand. Trees are so important to our lives and should have high priority. Raising public awareness to their importance is key. 13. Public access and woodland conservation do not have to be naturally exclusive. They can work together. 14. One would always like access to woodland areas, especially if we are contributing to the costs of conserving them, but private land should also be managed. 15. A balance should be struck across the district of appropriate amounts of public access/ conservation/ flora and fauna - so some areas could be for one aspect, but overall access is maintained alongside pure conservation. <p>Specific Areas Which Need Attention</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One area in need of care: Quarry Moor area - nice open area for walking - well used. The woodland there is in a bad condition. Much felling and coppicing needed. Many dead trees and spindly trees struggle to survive. This is one area that needs urgent attention. 2. Please could you look into replacing the felled chestnut tree in the avenue on 	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>Oatlands Drive? There is a very big gap here! I know a small sapling was put there 16 months ago, which broke in a storm, but a larger tree needs to be put there to complete the avenue.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. In this local area of Hookstone we have seen (presumably non-authorized) individuals sawing and taking away logs this winter - should be left to encourage wildlife. 4. I feel Jennyfields (Norwich Drive) has too many trees, and autumn leaves and mess everywhere and cleaning up off leaves is poor. Residents end up cleaning their own road and paths, this is awful. Wet leaves spell danger. 5. Regular inspections. Consider specimen trees in locations for high amenity and conservation values. Maintaining the cherry trees on sections of the Stray. 6. Checks should be made on trees/bushes covering road signs on all routes into and out of our area. 7. I enjoy seeing trees but am concerned that trees that are planted in the islands at traffic roundabouts can be a hazard as they tend to obscure the view with regard to vehicles coming from opposite side. 8. Knaresborough and the viaduct view from the castle top. Lovely as the trees are, they are fast obscuring the view of St John's Church, the viaduct and Mother Shipton's Cave side of the river. Maybe needs looking at though I appreciate this is a specific issue not necessarily of prime importance. 9. It would be helpful to have a plan of woodlands the council is responsible for. The trees on the riverbanks in Ripon receive no care or maintenance. Who is responsible? 10. Pateley Bridge - Grounds of Harefield Hotel devastated. 11. I think it's a shame when trees are excessively fenced off as at Jacob Smith Park. 12. More management of the trees on the Stray. 	
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	<p>13. Question 10 - I note there is a lack of tree planting on Hay-A-Park on waterside Knaresborough. I feel it would be appropriate to plant some on the grassed area on the approach to the estate to take away from the over development of land which had previously become a haven for wildlife prior to the initial clearing of the site for development.</p> <p>14. The trimming of overhanging roadside trees should be a priority, even those in private gardens i.e. I travel on the 36 bus between Ripon and Harrogate and several trees need lopping. A variety of native trees should be planted to encourage a safe haven for wildlife. Attractive blossom trees could be planted in urban areas.</p> <p>15. There should be greater management of trees alongside bus routes e.g. the number 36 bus gets hit by branches to the upper deck particularly near the exhibition hall next to the Royal Hall. Also on the route of the number 24 Harrogate to Pateley Bridge.</p> <p>Five-year maintenance cycle insufficient</p> <p>1. Five years can be too long a period, due to egg gales, which can cause serious damage to a tree, even one week after examination!</p> <p>2. It is essential that Council trees are inspected cyclically. This is preferable to dealing with problems as and when they arise. The avenues of trees, particularly on the Stray, must be retained by planting younger trees behind the maturing areas. Strict instructions should be issued to developers to secure the future of trees on any development sites. Penalties should be enforced if this stipulation is not adhered to. The Enforcement Officers should have powers to take action against those people carrying out non-approved works on trees under TPO's or TC's. All too often work is done first and the consequences</p>	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>accepted by the person in question because the system is not here to apprehend and penalise those who break the conditions of TPO's etc. In certain areas of the Borough it is apparent that both Highway and open space trees are reaching maturity. This should be apprehended and plans put in place to replace them. Also highway trees species need to be carefully selected to avoid the problems associated with lift, hangover, low crowns etc.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. I would like to see the trees that the Council have at present maintained on a regular basis, not every five years or so. Also on the housing estates the trouble they cause to residents i.e. sap, gates, windows covered in a sticky substances, gutters blocked, gardens covered in leaves, blocked light, telephone lines being interfered with, pavements uneven with roots protruding, drain damage, property damage caused by roots. The Council never clean the windows, never clean the gutters, never clean the leaves up in gardens. The Council clean the leaves up once a year after they have laid on the ground for 5-6 weeks, so they do it once and once only. The leaves in this time get wet and very slippery and dangerous. So I would say look after what you have got.4. 5-year rotation seems too infrequent? Should this not be done biannually?5. Question 12 - 5 years seems an awful long time between inspections, bearing in mind the financial commitments of more frequent inspections, it may be possible, with little cost to train a body of volunteers to carry out rudimentary checks and report ant serious concerns to a agricultural officer. Recruits could be found through contacts with local groups e.g. N.F.U, etc.6. Trees on public/ private land, especially along roads should be viewed by the arboriculture department say once in 5 years to visually assess health etc and	
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	<p>report to the house owners. Tree removal services etc are left in the hands of the private householder, advice could be given. Major routes in Harrogate and district should be tree lined.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. I don't know a lot about trees, but suspect a 5-year cycle might be OK for some species but not all. Also careful replenishing of ornamental trees on a cyclical basis to maintain the town's beauty is important as well as keeping the broad leaves supervised. 8. The pruning and trimming of trees planted in urban areas is vital in order to maintain the environment and social quality of life for residents. 9. Question 14. If a tree is eventually unsafe e.g. bits of it dropping off onto areas where, for instance, children play or people walk their dogs, then the tree should be pruned or removed without bureaucratic delay. 10. Trees alongside public footpaths off the highways should be regularly inspected for safety reasons. 11. I feel the computers used to keep check on the conditions of trees inappropriate as there are some very old trees which do need to be inspected more often - i.e. dangerous to people and animals. 12. Inspected trees should be tagged to indicate year of inspection. This is not currently done from evidence in my local area. 13. I feel that trimming should be done to trees on residential roads more frequently as they used to be 45 years ago. Some trees are getting out of hand nowadays. 14. Question 12 - Surely prioritise the inspections, i.e. older trees get inspected more often than younger trees. The more at risk a tree is (from age, disease, it's location) the greater the frequency of inspection. <p>Policies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council appear to have a policy 	<p>All comments</p>
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	<p>that tends to be reactive, apart from feathering of street trees in summer. I think that there should be a maintenance regime that deals with the development of a tree to stimulate healthy growth in the long term. That is to say the shaping of the branch system and immediate repair of damage to the tree and its branches. There is no doubt that Trees and Woodlands contribute to the overall attractiveness of Harrogate and District, but one has to be very careful in the management of the treescape not to overdo certain styles of planting which may detract from the overall landscape. Specimen trees liberally scattered around on open spaces will detract from the landscape. Open areas within woodland are essential for an attractive walk with views of the wider landscape. There is nothing worse than walking endlessly through conifer forests. The wide-open areas of the Stray are important features and there are limits to the number of trees that should be planted. I don't believe there can be an overall policy on replanting 2 for 1. First one has to determine a policy for individual trees - specimen trees - street trees - woodlands etc. Certain locations could well benefit from a 2 for 1 policy but other sites it may only be possible to replant with a single specimen. The replanting of woodland may require a 6 for 1 (or more) policy. This policy should also address the size and age of the tree to be replanted. Whether native species of trees should be replanted depends on the site and location. In an urban environment it is not necessary for only native species to be planted. Take the London Plane that is not native but may be the only tree that thrives in the London or any other street scene. The rural sites should be treated separately and it may well be appropriate to only plant native species (the definition of "native" needs to be specified). Street trees have a</p>	<p>considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>major part to play in the distinctive, valuable and attractive landscape of the towns and urban areas of the District. The policy should address specifically this category of amenity tree. Our town has lost a considerable number of street trees that have not been replaced, on the pretext that the statutory services have priority and are allowed to severely damage root systems causing trees to die and be removed without being replaced. I trust that the County Highway Authority will adopt this policy when it assumes control of the highways throughout North Yorkshire. The 5-year inspection period is appropriate for the specimen/street tree, but not for woodlands, this could be a longer period. As mentioned above, there should be a budget element for maintaining and developing trees, which in turn has a benefit for the health of a tree and therefore reduces the health and safety risks.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. The existing arrangements struck me, as a relative newcomer to the area, as admirable. If it ain't broke... who add more policies? Perhaps the Council needs a policies policy?3. Such tree and woodlands policy must clearly state at what stage of a trees development a tree preservation order can be applied to said tree. This should help private landowners manage any tree planting program, either in large areas or private gardens. It must also acknowledge that growing trees can cause light deprivation to adjacent properties.4. It would be a matter of concern if decisions taken to decide which exclusion zones are deemed important, much time and resources could be spent deciding upon these zones when the money could be put to better use preserving and planting new trees.5. Do we really need yet another policy document that will take considerable man-hours to produce - just get on with	
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	<p>the job. Use money on trees not words on paper.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. The council's policy on trees does not meet its actions. The covering letter with this questionnaire is meaningless when the complete lack of replacement trees.7. I am concerned by the comment in the summary sheet that a significant amount of the team's daily workload can be taken up with minor issues. Who decides what is minor? To the person with the issue it may well be a major problem, even if the team would rather do something else. Is this a lack of customer focus?8. The document should be more concise, and more flexible.9. Funds for this tree work should be available but I disagree that fixed budget should be set. Budget should be set only for legislative work.10. It is fantastic to have such a policy. The further development and management of trees in our urban areas would appear to me to be one of the priorities, because of the contribution to our quality of life. Particularly relevant in our poorer areas. Perhaps it would help to make people have more pride in their locality and take more responsibility.11. The whole thing seems far too bureaucratic - much too much management and not what the council should be spending money on at this very difficult time when the resources could be used for many other things. I think the idea of an injured party having to produce so much documentation if they have tree damage to a house is horrific.12. I would like to take the opportunity to highlight a few points relevant to the draft policy document for your consideration. Page 18 – Trees located on Private Land – Following recent cases of alleged illegal felling within Harrogate district it could be a useful place to indicate that a Felling Licence may be required for trees protected	
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	<p>under the Forestry Act 1967 (as amended). E.g. small copses or woodlands. Members of the public are often aware of TPO/conservation area protection but not of the Forestry Act. Mutual benefit for HBC and FC here! Page 24 – Larger Scale Planting Schemes – May wish to add reference to “England’s Trees Woods and Forests” (National Forestry Policy) encouraging woodland creation as well as “Trees in our Changing Region” (Regional Policy) to which HBC contributed of course! Page 32 – Here mention is made of felling licence control so Page 18 comment above would support this, otherwise the reader may not understand its context. Page 41 – Mention of Ancient Woodland in particular would be helpful (as promoted by ETWF National Forestry Policy document). Page 42 – Manage woodlands in accordance with Regional Policy would be encouraged here. As a general comment I found the draft document to be well written and informative and I’m sure it will be well received by the community.</p> <p>More Information/Education</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is such an important subject, with a very wide area; it deserves a seminar on the whole subject of hedges, trees, flora, wildlife. Bob Nash 2. Woodland conservation is extremely important but not a total justification for excluding access - clear signs, good information, paths and walkways allow access to sensitive areas without destroying what is attractive about a site. There is an education element in conservation, which landowners, including the councils, have a duty to provide if conservation is to be embraced by the general public. For example, in cooperation with conservation groups and schools, could you start a Harrogate Tree Trail? 3. Education preferred to exclusion. 	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>4. Lots of newcomers to the area do not know of some of the walks in the area, why not show these in diagram form in local press releases?</p> <p>5. Trees on private land may or may not have a protection order. How can we find out and how can we ask the council to consider protection. Promotion of woodland i.e. Bilton/ Knaresborough is not promoted enough to the council through the woodland trust does encourage use.</p> <p>6. I think that alongside their proposals, there should be strong communication and education to the general public to ensure support and compliance. I also believe it would be beneficial to highlight the benefits, especially in schools, and include schools in some of the initiatives. I also think that conservation should not be seen as exclusion to the public and that children should have play areas.</p> <p>7. People should be educated for the conservation of woodlands e.g. schools, etc.</p> <p>8. We need to educate the public.</p> <p>9. I feel strongly that educating people about trees and wildlife would help enormously. I live in the AONB and even here people chop down trees without any thought at all of what effect their actions are having on local wildlife or the landscape. It is taken very much for granted that people can do what they want because they live in a fairly rural area. It should be a policy that good reason should be shown and proved as to why a tree should be cut down!</p> <p>Formation of volunteer groups/involvement of charities</p> <p>1. The policy should encourage all communities and individuals to take an active part in promoting tree planning on both Council and private land to benefit any environment. Tree species should be of indigenous types and</p>	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant</p>
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	<p>suitable for the location to avoid potential problems later. The public could pay for or sponsor planting schemes voluntarily under the guidance of the Council. Trees are the lungs of communities and are an invaluable asset that is often underrated by the public.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Regarding the policy information online you appear to be grossly understaffed. Is any use being made of students undertaking arboricultural courses - are they regularly given placements within the relevant council departments relating to woodland management? Experiential learning would help both parties. 3. What about young offenders being involved with close supervision to help with costs and keeping conservation areas in pristine condition, also for learning purposes. 4. Question 12 - Formation of volunteer groups, say friends of Harrogate trees, could assist in monitoring and inspecting of our trees. Generally, better protection should be given to newly planted trees/ saplings, especially where they are replacing those damaged by vandalism. 5. Question 12 - 5 years seems an awful long time between inspections, bearing in mind the financial commitments of more frequent inspections, it may be possible, with little cost to train a body of volunteers to carry out rudimentary checks and report any serious concerns to a agricultural officer. Recruits could be found through contacts with local groups e.g. N.F.U, etc. 6. I would like to see a higher ratio of 2 for 1 on tree planting in rural areas. Could you get charities involved in tree planting schemes instead of using council budget? 7. The exclusion zones should be available to schools/ colleges via pre-arrangement. Perhaps employing students to help manage woodland would be beneficial to all. 	<p>sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>8. Has the council considered using volunteers?</p> <p>Problems Caused by Trees</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I would like to see all paths clear of over hanging branches. 2. Planting trees and bushes between roads and public footpaths, is, in years to come, going to make those footpaths unsafe to use. 3. More consideration should be given to the impact trees can have to those living close to them. Trees planted by the council and allowed to self seed close to property should not be allowed to cause stress and discomfort. Those that can't sit in the sunshine, dry their washing or receive a decent TV signal because of overhanging trees, shouldn't be forced to endure it in favour of trees. 4. A weed can overrun a garden, I believe the sycamore should be classed as an undesirable, randomly appearing tree which is subject to black spot on it's leaves, is fast growing thus becoming obstructive. On several occasions I have noticed planning consent being refused to deal with local huge specimens. They may contribute to the canopy of the area but if left unchecked, seed widely and give rise to lots of leaves for the council to clear from the streets in autumn. 5. There are plenty of trees already in our area and I feel we are in danger of giving them too much priority over the needs of commerce and development. 6. Trees grow out of hand 7. Areas used for recreation (especially by young people for football, cricket, etc) should be kept clear of trees, except on boundaries and sites where they will not interfere with free movement. 8. There is currently an obsession with preserving trees at any cost within the urban area because this is "the thing to do". Trees in an urban area can become a significant nuisance which 	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>results in stress and anxiety for those affected by them. This should always be taken into account.</p> <p>Need for protection/to increase trees and woodland</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harrogate needs to maintain existing tree belts across the town and try to link them with wildlife corridors. Access to areas of special natural beauty is most important. Footpaths through fields and farmland on designated routes should be considered and enhanced. These footpaths abound and should be allowed to work hand in glove with local residents, local environmental groups, ramblers and walking groups. These places are so important to Harrogate and are usually found within walking distance of suburbia. I cannot speak for other towns in the Harrogate District, but I trust residents in Ripon, Knaresborough, Pateley Bridge and Boroughbridge will want to make similar comments. 2. There needs to be a strong policy towards protecting trees. Trees should also be grown in sustainable forests, which would be good for the environment generally. There also needs to be a policy where all trees that HAVE to be felled are used appropriately. Even if they are sawn into logs, these should be made available for people to use on log burners because it is a carbon neutral fuel. There are many times when felled trees are simply burned on open ground!! Some of the large parks such as Studley run by the National Trust allow this to happen. Perhaps a national policy could reverse this. 3. Areas of NEW woodland/shrub land should be created where possible on council owned land and private landowners encouraged to do likewise by provision of local authority/government assisted grants. When new building is approved, though 	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>consideration is already given to trees on site, more effort should be made to consider longer term effects of the building works on trees, i.e. longer term effects of root disturbance/root pruning etc.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Awareness of the pest leading to the decimation of trees in the New Forest. Is this being monitored? 5. Has any consideration been given to protecting our hedges - which often contain specimen trees too. Hedges are wonderful wildlife habitats - in conjunction with trees. All too often hedges are being replaced by ugly fences in urban areas. 6. Urban trees are very important in making streets a pleasant place to live and should be preserved. New planting should not just be small species, but larger ones in their over all effect is much better than smaller ones. Nature should be widely used especially in large spaces like the Stray. 7. The policy goes a very long way towards what I think is most important - that is being the champions of trees, valuing their contribution to life and protecting them from destruction for trivial reasons or the whim of an individual. <p>Action required against vandalism</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I see many damaged saplings/young trees around Harrogate, caused by vandalism. A policy should address how trees such as these are planted/replaced to minimise vandalism. Could more mature trees be planted, which are less susceptible to damage. 2. Proceedings should be taken against vandals damaging and destroying newly planted trees and shrubs (as often happens on the Stray and in the Jennyfields/ Hydro area). 3. Greater effort needed to tackle vandalism of sapling trees. 4. Question 12 - Formation of volunteer 	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>groups, say friends of Harrogate trees, could assist in monitoring and inspecting of our trees. Generally, better protection should be given to newly planted trees/ saplings, especially where they are replacing those damaged by vandalism.</p> <p>5. I understand that the Council, for Health and Safety reasons, has been reducing the amount of grass-cutting on open (green) spaces that are at an angle and planting saplings in their place. These future trees may be good for consuming carbon dioxide, however a number of saplings have already been damaged by vandals in nearby Coppice Park. How does the Council intend to address the issue of vandalism in general to ensure the success of its tree planting?</p> <p>6. Several young trees in the Tockwith area have been vandalised, branches broken off and in some cases the trunk snapped. This problem has to be addressed, replacements all add to the budget. People need to be educated to appreciate the benefits that trees bring to their lives. Perhaps local schools could adopt a tree in that area and children study the life of the tree over a year.</p> <p>7. Harrogate must keep on planting trees to keep to our 'garden' status. As the young saplings might be destroyed by youngsters or youths, 2 to 1 might not be sufficient. In Salford Keys they have brilliant 'cages' to protect the trees, could we have similar to protect our trees?</p> <p>Cost Implications</p> <p>1. I think in this economic climate cash can be spent on more important matters than woodland and trees.</p> <p>2. There is no level of cost indicated in the accompanying paperwork. In the current economic situation, where money is tight, this should not have a high priority.</p> <p>3. If this policy for or against was adopted</p>	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>would this increase the burden on the tax?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Why waste public money when trees will grow. 5. The cost of tree and woodlands policy implementation should not be prejudiced by the very generous 6. The council has a parks and gardens budget - could this be used for tree management? Further more, get developers and corporates to sponsor woodlands. <p>Tourism</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harrogate relies on its gardens, flowers and beauty attracting tourists. 2. I think that Harrogate does a good job in providing such pleasant surroundings such as The Pine Woods and Valley Gardens. 3. Harrogate is a well visited area which requires the attention for trees and woodlands to keep up appearances as necessary for the benefit of those who reside here and visitors too, thus keeping up the status level. 4. I think it is extremely important to continue to conserve and replant the trees around Harrogate. Harrogate owes a great part of its beauty to the lovely open spaces and trees. Many friends and family have commented how attractive the town and surrounding area are. 5. I think that Harrogate and district maintain a very high standard with regard to parks, gardens and the general area. The staff are knowledgeable and best suited to deal with what is best to maintain a high standard. <p>Miscellaneous</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More of the questions apply to urban rather than rural areas. Generally speaking, living as we do, in the latter. It would be fair to say that we are satisfied with present policies. 	<p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the relevant sections of the document.</p> <p>All comments considered. Appropriate changes made throughout the</p>
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Too much detailed knowledge is assumed and quite a lot depends on politics. What does not appear to be present is a proportionate, reasonable, common sense approach to woodland and tree management. There is evidence of creeping zealot-like attitudes which will ultimately polarise opinions and where a common thought is sought only division of opinion will arise. This is an urban area of tree management and not a rural one where the emphasis is more likely to be proportionate, pragmatic and realistic. I worry about where we're going here. Trees can be a nuisance as well - we should admit to that. I'm concerned about the underlying demand to access private property without permission of residents. 3. The common sense should prevail more often, and not to be so dogmatic. 4. I don't feel qualified to answer specific questions about tree management. It makes sense, with limited resources, to have a policy that conservation can be balanced with addressing "minor" complaints that run risk of overshadowing work. 5. Commercial use of woodlands is also very important and from this "renewable" point of view should not be discouraged. Also otherwise justifiable developments should not be discouraged by individual tree preservation if replacement planting can be provided on, or off, site to compensate. No additional costs should arise in council budget from this. 6. Without sight of full draft document it is difficult to assess and answer the majority of these questions. The information given is very brief and basic. 7. I would object to public footpaths being closed because of woodland (etc) conservation. 8. More weight should be given to the wishes or needs of private residents in connection with the management of 	<p>relevant sections of the document.</p>
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	<p>trees on private land where that private resident has total responsibility i.e. safety, economic, management.</p> <p>9. I worked for 5 years with the Hereford and Worcester Countryside Conservation Service and would be pleased to offer my knowledge and expertise to Harrogate.</p> <p>10. As a retired person, perhaps more keen on walking and cycling and getting back to nature than most folk, I welcome any management that enhances these experiences. However, I note my own selfish reasons for this - and note, more over, that the questions seem chosen to invite answers which endorse expenditure on these enhancements, without any questions regarding the allocation of limited cash to these services rather than others.</p> <p>11. Question 8 - Risk of shading properties. Question 12 - Large input for questionable gain. Question 15 - Risk of antagonising owners such trees can be encouraged to die.</p> <p>12. Inflammable trees like eucalyptus should never be planted in woodlands around Harrogate District.</p> <p>13. This questionnaire is dreadful. It tries hard to lead the panel member to give the outcome the writer wants. It seems the officer who wrote the questionnaire has something to gain from achieving support for a tree policy and enhanced conservation. The results of this questionnaire will be worthless and the council must not commit resources against its findings.</p> <p>14. Woodland footpaths should be managed e.g. wood chippings on muddy paths.</p> <p>15. I do not know enough about the council's current policy on implementation of woodlands work to comment safely. Therefore high percentage of don't knows in above.</p> <p>16. Should not become part of the planning process committee as they lack common sense.</p> <p>17. For health and safety reasons the</p>	
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	<p>present practice of allowing street lighting to be buried within tree foliage should be discontinued. In other words more thought about public safety and less about preserving the shape of a particular tree.</p> <p>18. You're asking a lot of specific technical questions that most people you are surveying will not know much about.</p> <p>19. More information should have been provided so that more informed replies could be given. How can I comment on the council's tree policies when I know nothing about them?</p> <p>20. There are some areas close to our home which consist of hedgerow, brambles, ivy and invading self-seeding saplings. The council clears this back on an annual basis. The council does not own the land, neither do the residents. Land registry records state that the ground is owned by the family who sold some land to developers for residential development. I feel that these owners should be responsible for the upkeep of such areas if they choose to retain a portion of land. This should not be the burden of the council or residents. I assume that there are probably more instances like this across the borough.</p> <p>21. Residents in a rural/ urban area I find consideration has been shown in the past except for a few individual cases. Generally speaking a good strategy is being pressed.</p> <p>22. Logs felled in the Boroughbridge area should be left to be used locally, and not taken to Harrogate.</p> <p>23. Having been involved in the past in the timber trade. I am biased. Some management is necessary partaking in areas accessed by the public.</p> <p>24. In the last 21 years that we have lived in our property we have had excellent relationship with the arboriculture department who have always responded in a positive and structured way to all our concerns, that is until this last year. Concerns about a tree and it's</p>	
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	<p>branches overshadowing out bungalow roof have been disregarded by letters but no action. It is a case of, if you have a concern, pay yourself to have the branches removed, but inform the department. What a disappointing attitude.</p> <p>25. In general (Harrogate excluded) not enough resources are given to promoting tree growth in cities and towns in the UK. Some of these cities are treeless.</p> <p>26. It would be useful to be able to refer to a street map of woodlands in Harrogate showing density of planting.</p> <p>27. I am concerned that there are other priorities the council should be addressing.</p> <p>28. I feel that the criteria for a claim against the council are too stringent and that a pre-assessment process could be implemented to allow both parties the option to process or accept/ drop claim.</p> <p>29. In the present changing climate what should be considered as native?</p> <p>30. Q5 is a negative question in that it asks 'should tress not be...' I don't think tress should be removed but because the way in which the question is asked it may interfere with the final survey score for that question. Thank-you.</p> <p>31. Q13: H&S may drive an urgent need but is not an overall strategy. Q14: Not every time - that becomes another procedural hurdle and expense. The policy should leave discretion to the Council to seek advice as they see fit. Q16: Do not want to see this as another box that has to be ticked or a number one priority.</p> <p>32. The document goes on a bit but you make some fantastic claims about trees (you are obviously obsessed by them). Mature trees increase property values, I don't think so, I would not buy a house with mature trees in the garden. Positively effect (sic) lifestyles – reduce stress! Drivel. Help with positive thinking – scientific proof? Don't think so. Reduce levels of crime – exactly</p>	
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	<p>the opposite, providing shelter and lower light levels. Come on you're scraping the barrel, you mention shade in your next item. The trouble with the document and thus with you is that you dismiss several times during the document the rights of residents who are blighted with trees as trivial reasons. These residents pay your wages and should be given more consideration, these people live 7 days a week every week with their "trivial problem" gradually getting bigger and becoming an obsession just like you have. The report is completely one sided with your views the norm and no rights for the residents blighted by your tree planting, adjacent (sic) to housing estates.</p> <p>Response received from the Ramblers' Association (29/04/2009)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a): Insert paragraphs & reference numbers into the document b): Correct grammatical errors 2. Consider future issues relating to the transfer of the Highways contract to NYCC at bullet point 1, page 3 3. AIMS & OBJECTIVES (page 5) – Consider giving reference in this section to the term 'safety' 4. SPF (page 6) – remove acronym and outline what it stands for 5. Remove word 'increase' from property value statement (page 6) 6. Consider future issues relating to the transfer of the Highways contract to NYCC (pages 14, 15 &16) and include transfer dates if available 	<p>Comment considered. Appropriate changes made</p> <p>Comment considered. Appropriate changes made</p> <p>Comment considered. Appropriate changes made</p> <p>Comment considered. Appropriate changes made</p> <p>Comment considered. No changes made</p> <p>Comment considered. Appropriate changes made</p>
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	<p>7. POLICY 3 (page 16) – consider inserting the words 'sporting activities' after the word 'highways'</p> <p>8. Consider adding the bullet point 'The potential for structural damage' to the existing list at page 27</p> <p>9. Consider including information on what the definition of an 'important hedgerow' is at page 32</p> <p>10. Consider inserting after 'Parish Councils', the words 'and in the case of Harrogate Town (and Pannal) Ward Councillors' at page 46</p> <p>11. APPENDIX 3 – Include the contact details for English Nature and the Woodland Trust</p> <p>12. Consider including a section on Climate Change and considerations with regards to appropriate trees to help mitigate those effects</p>	<p>Comment considered. No changes made</p> <p>Comment considered. No changes made</p> <p>Comment considered. No changes made</p> <p>Comment considered. No changes made</p> <p>Comment considered. No changes made</p> <p>Comment considered. Appropriate changes made</p>
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