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Harrogate Borough Council Trees & Woodland Policy

Public Consultation 2009

May 2009

Fiona Friday
Community Engagement Officer
Department of Corporate Policy & Improvement

- 1.1 In February 2009 Harrogate Borough Council consulted residents of the District to seek views on the Harrogate Borough Council Trees and Woodland Policy. A copy of the questionnaire can be found at Appendix A.
- 1.2 The following questionnaires were returned:

Analysis of responses	
Total questionnaires analysed = 985	
	Questionnaires returned
District Panel	882
Parish/Town Council	29
Councillor	26
Community Group	3
Rotary club	1
In Bloom groups	5
Conservation group	1
Member of general public	4
Organisation	6
Internet/intranet	75

- 1.3 In total **985** responses to the **Trees & Woodland Policy** questionnaire were received. Please note not all respondents answered every question within the questionnaire, the analysis below is based on valid responses to each individual question and not answered questions have been omitted from the analysis.

I Trees & Woodland Policy

95% of respondents thought that a Trees & Woodland Policy would be beneficial to the Council and its residents

87% of respondents were satisfied that the Council's trees are managed to appropriate standards

97% of respondents thought that the level of tree cover currently associated with Harrogate and its district helps to contribute to its overall attractiveness, numbers of visitors it receives and desirability to live and work within it

30% of respondents thought that too many trees are felled or removed from Council land

88% of respondents thought that healthy trees should not be removed without having prior relevant justification to do so

6% of respondents thought that too many trees are planted in the urban environment

82% of respondents thought that a replacement planting figure of 2 for 1 in the urban setting is enough to ensure Arboricultural sustainability within the Council's district boundaries

42% of respondents would like to see a higher replacement planting figure than 2 for 1 in the urban environment on an annual basis

88% of respondents thought that an annual budget for tree planting should be allocated and set aside so as to ensure that an appropriate number of trees are replaced in any given year

92% of respondents would like to see areas currently devoid of trees or low in tree numbers being planted as priority sites with appropriate tree species

93% of respondents thought that priority should be given to native tree species when considering tree replacement planting schemes on Council land

89% of respondents thought that the timeframes (in line with current national guidelines) that the Council aims to inspect each of its trees on a 5-year rotation as part of its Tree Survey Strategy, were both efficient and economical and the best use of Council resources whilst trying to maintain the safest environment for all those that live and work within it.

94% of respondents thought that the Council is adopting the best strategic approach with regards to resource management by only undertaking tree works as priority that are required as a health and safety concern

94% of respondents thought that it is appropriate to request and consider all relevant technical information from third-parties when claims of damage are received by the Council that may implicate important trees, prior to considering the removal of such trees

the appropriate use of Planning Conditions and Tree
to protect landscape features and trees on development

81% of respondents when considering the overall Tree Policy, thought that enough consideration is given towards the protection of wildlife and wildlife and landscape conservation

Respondents that answered no to this question, were asked to state how they thought greater consideration could be given towards the protection of wildlife and wildlife and landscape conservation, a variety of responses were received, the most frequent concern being from the planning/development perspective, for example more consideration should always be given to existing trees when creating planning permission

94% of respondents agreed that woodlands should be managed for conservation purposes

79% of respondents agreed that woodlands should be managed for recreation purposes

74% of respondents agreed that some woodland areas should be designated as exclusion zones for the benefit of ecology and flora

84% of respondents agreed that specific budgets should be set aside for the annual maintenance of all Council woodland sites

45% of respondents agreed that management priority should be given to woodland conservation as opposed to public access

5.1 A copy of the Statement of the Trees and Woodland questionnaire can be found at appendix A

Q1. Do you feel that a Trees & Woodland Policy would be beneficial to the Council and its residents?

	Number	%
Yes	858	95.3
No	42	4.7
Total	900	
Note 71 respondents answered don't know		

Q2. Do you feel satisfied that the Council's trees are managed to appropriate standards?

	Number	%
Yes	673	87.2
No	99	12.9
Total	772	
Note 201 respondents answered don't know		

Q3. Do you feel that the level of tree cover currently associated with Harrogate and its district helps to contribute to its overall attractiveness, numbers of visitors it receives and desirability to live and work within it?

	Number	%
Yes	889	96.5
No	32	3.5
Total	921	
Note 50 respondents answered don't know		

Q4. Do you feel that too many trees are felled or removed from Council land?

	Number	%
Yes	164	30
No	383	70
Total	547	
Note 422 respondents answered don't know		

Q5. Do you feel that healthy trees should not be removed without having prior relevant justification to do so?

	Number	%
Yes	819	88.3
No	109	11.7
Total	928	
Note 25 respondents answered don't know		

es are planted in the urban environment?

	Number	%
	51	5.8
	832	94.2
Total	883	
Note 25 respondents answer ed donq know		

Q7. Do you feel that a replacement planting figure of 2 for 1 in the urban setting is enough to ensure Arboricultural sustainability within the Council's district boundaries?

	Number	%
Yes	637	82.1
No	139	17.9
Total	776	
Note 179 respondents answer ed donq know		

Q8. Would you like to see a higher replacement planting figure than 2 for 1 in the urban environment on an annual basis?

	Number	%
Yes	321	42
No	444	58
Total	765	
Note 186 respondents answer ed donq know		

Q9. Do you feel that an annual budget for tree planting should be allocated and set aside so as to ensure that an appropriate number of trees are replaced in any given year?

	Number	%
Yes	780	87.6
No	110	12.4
Total	890	
Note 62 respondents answer ed donq know		

Q10. Would you like to see areas currently devoid of trees or low in tree numbers being planted as priority sites with appropriate tree species?

	Number	%
Yes	812	92.2
No	69	7.8
Total	881	
Note 70 respondents answer ed donq know		

Q11. Do you feel that priority should be given to native tree species when considering tree replacement planting schemes on Council land?

	Number	%
Yes	852	93.4
No	60	6.6
Total	912	
Note 43 respondents answered donq know		

guidelines, the Council aims to inspect each part of its Tree Survey Strategy. Do you feel efficient and economical and the best use of to maintain the safest environment for all those

that live and work within it?

	Number	%
Yes	684	88.7
No	87	11.3
Total	771	
Note 182 respondents answered don't know		

Q13. Do you feel that the Council is adopting the best strategic approach with regards to resource management by only undertaking tree works as priority that are required as a health and safety concern?

	Number	%
Yes	831	93.5
No	58	6.5
Total	889	
Note 132 respondents answered don't know		

Q14. Do you feel that it is appropriate to request and consider all relevant technical information from third-parties when claims of damage are received by the Council that may implicate important trees, prior to considering the removal of such trees?

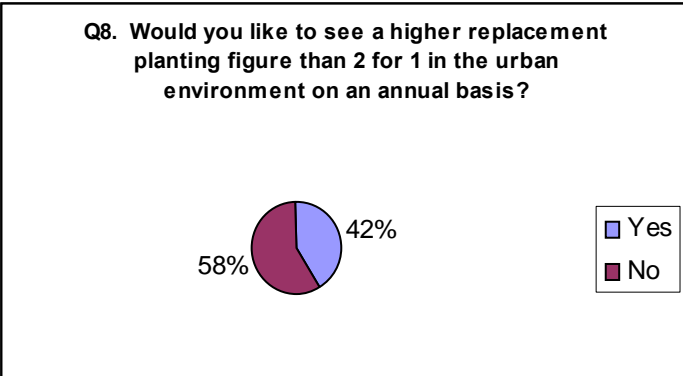
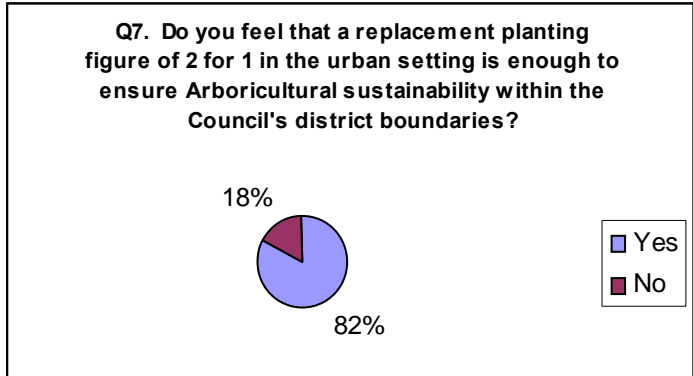
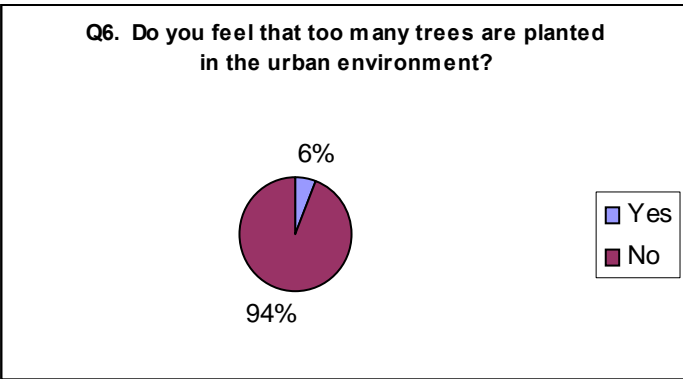
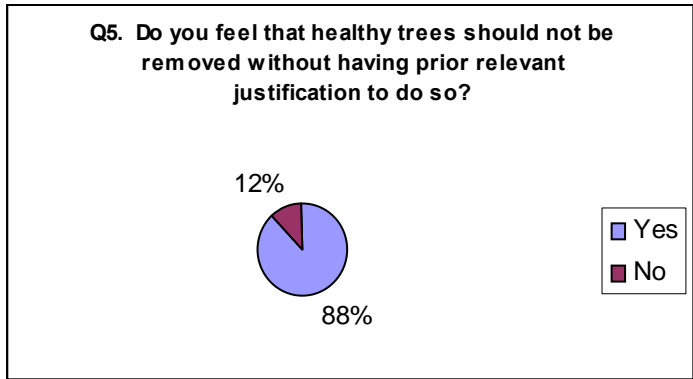
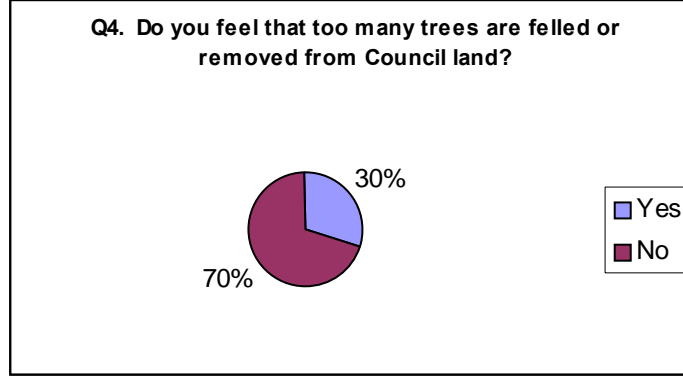
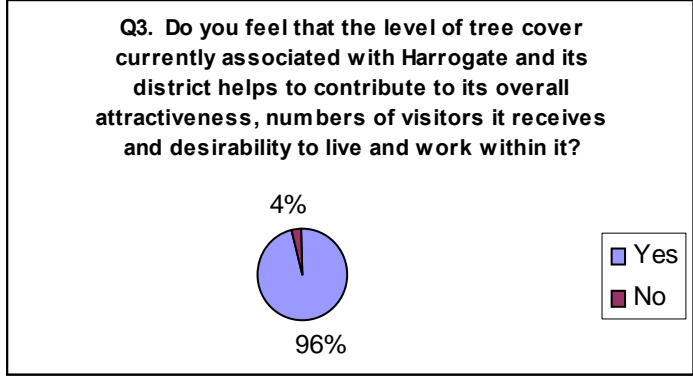
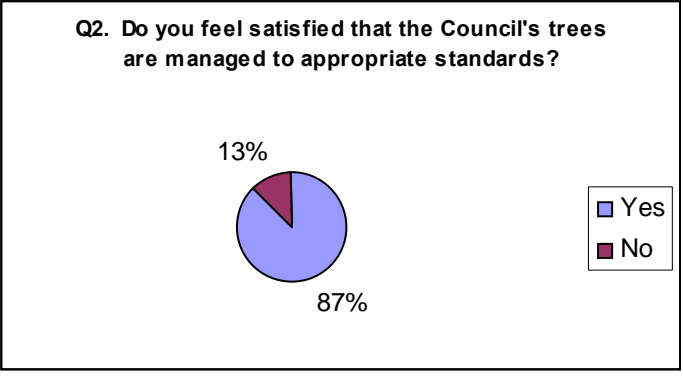
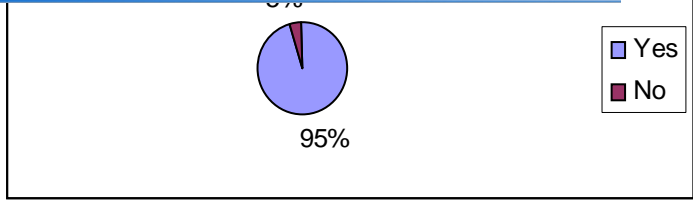
	Number	%
Yes	831	93.5
No	58	6.5
Total	889	
Note 64 respondents answered don't know		

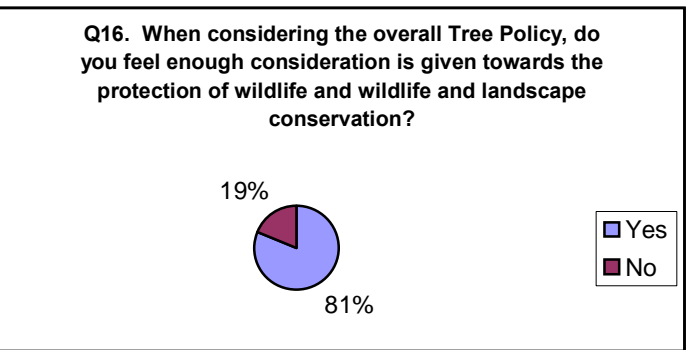
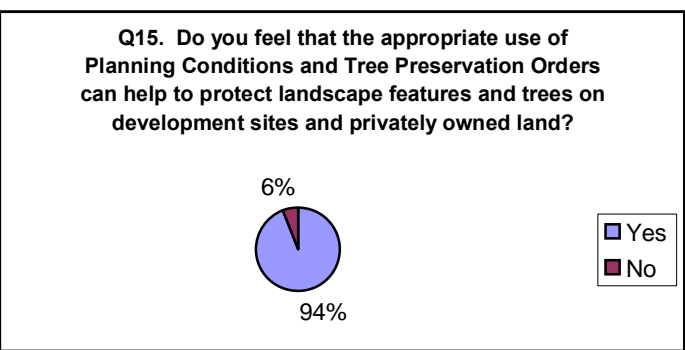
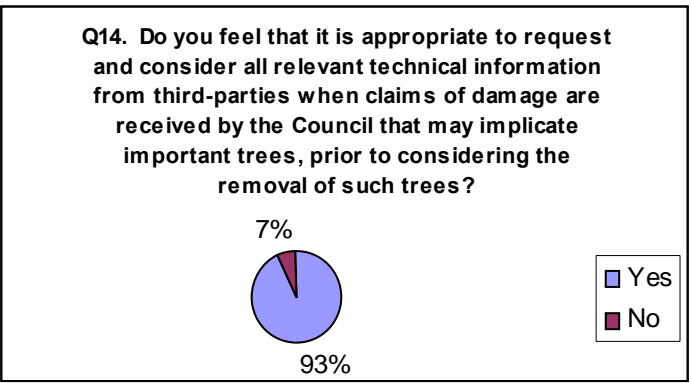
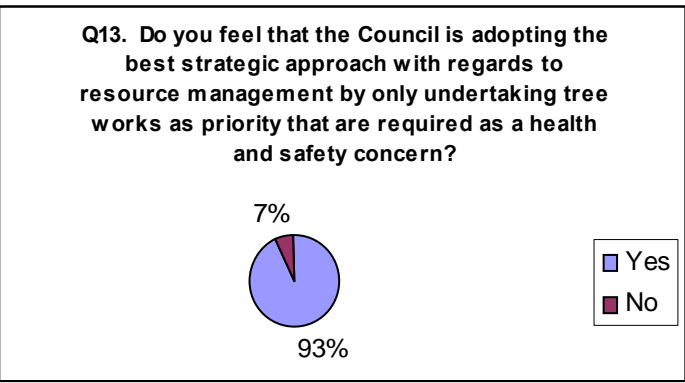
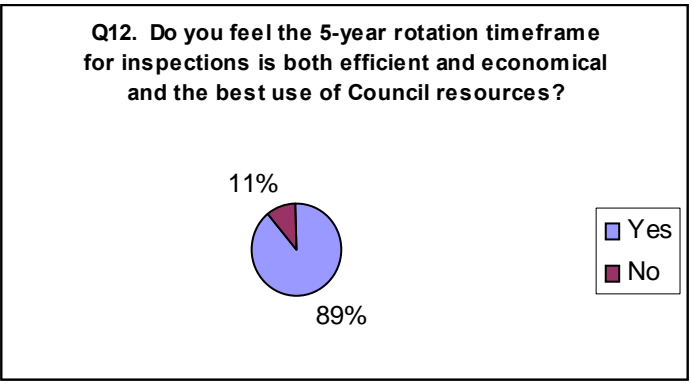
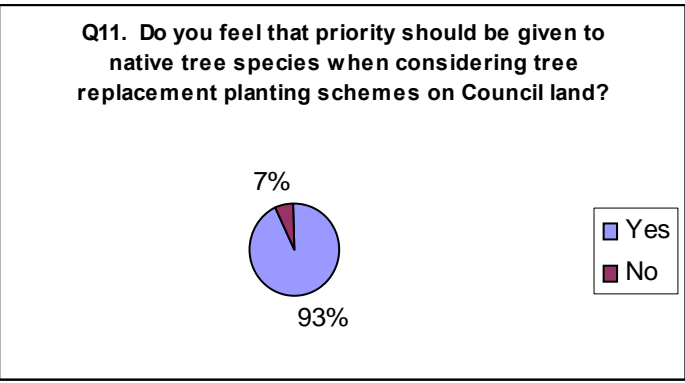
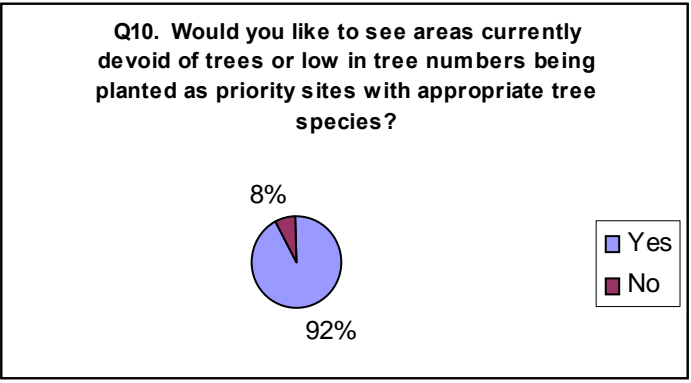
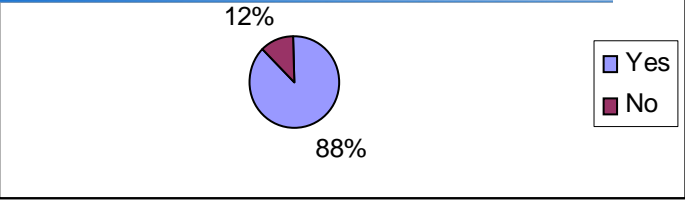
Q15. Do you feel that the appropriate use of Planning Conditions and Tree Preservation Orders can help to protect landscape features and trees on development sites and privately owned land?

	Number	%
Yes	859	94.3
No	52	5.7
Total	911	
Note 44 respondents answered don't know		

Q16. When considering the overall Tree Policy, do you feel enough consideration is given towards the protection of wildlife and wildlife and landscape conservation?

	Number	%
Yes	775	81.3
No	144	18.7
Total	619	
Note 34 respondents answered don't know		





te how you feel greater consideration can be given:

x B

Planning/Development x17

Expanding housing projects destroying wildlife habitats which seem not to be replaced. The Stray is a large expanse of land that could be tree planted to have pleasant walks not just dog walkers and footballers as at the moment.

More Planting x15

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.

Tree Removal x12

Trees should only be removed if there is the same type of habitat nearby to sustain misplaced wildlife.

Leave Wild x11

Things are too regimental nowadays, need more wild areas for hedgehogs, etc (real nature).

Experts/Science/Consultation x10

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 preserved is to ban humans from entering that area.

Inform/Involve x8

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.

Conservation x6

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.

Boxes x5

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

Wider Area x4

Look at what tree felling does in relation to wider landscape rather than just immediate vicinity.

Priority x4

I think that sometimes the council is too reactive to pressure from individuals. Wildlife and landscape conservation should always be the priorities.



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ly - particularly in urban areas. Trees should not be over
use to take hold and makes them look ugly - like totem
complain, but the trees

Hedges x3

Hedgerows are being continually ripped out, for what reason? Does the removal of hedges give the farms more land? Not enough consideration is being given to wildlife.

Miscellaneous x11

Footpaths should be on the fringe of treescapes not through the middle.

agree or disagree with the following
s and their management:

for conservation purposes

	Number	%
Strongly Agree/Agree	914	94.4
Neither Agree nor Disagree	37	3.8
Disagree/Strongly Disagree	17	1.8
Total	968	
Note 2 respondents answered don't know		

(b) Woodlands should be managed for recreation purposes

	Number	%
Strongly Agree/Agree	756	78.9
Neither Agree nor Disagree	147	15.3
Disagree/Strongly Disagree	55	5.8
Total	958	
Note 5 respondents answered don't know		

(c) Some woodland areas should be designated as 'exclusion zones' for the benefit of ecology and flora

	Number	%
Strongly Agree/Agree	709	73.8
Neither Agree nor Disagree	132	13.8
Disagree/Strongly Disagree	119	12.4
Total	960	
Note 8 respondents answered don't know		

(d) Specific budgets should be set aside for the annual maintenance of all Council woodland sites

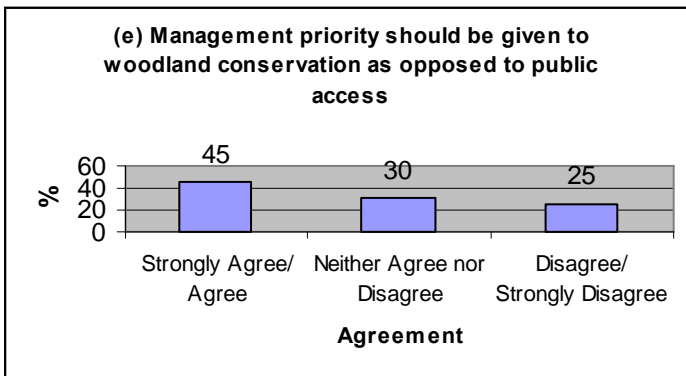
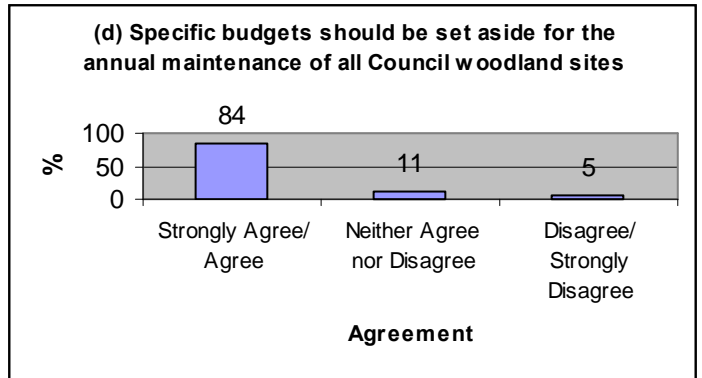
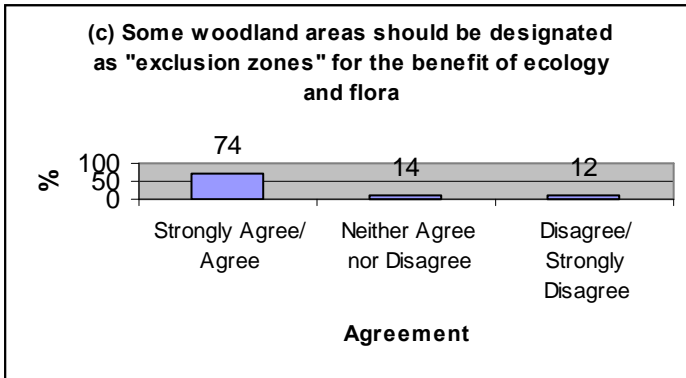
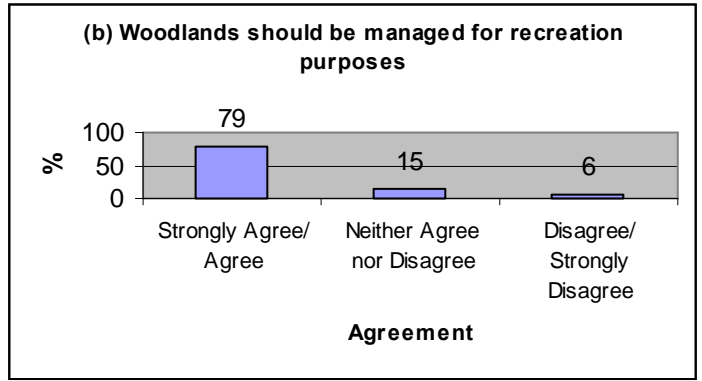
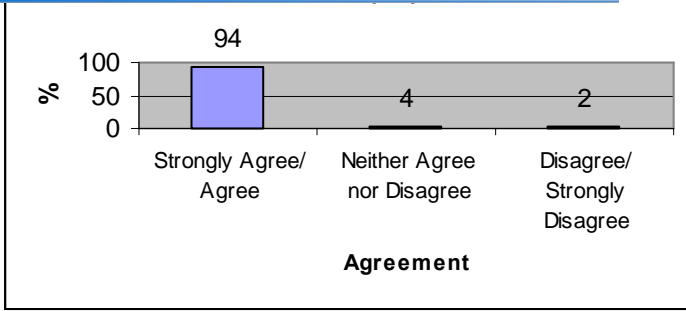
	Number	%
Strongly Agree/Agree	803	83.6
Neither Agree nor Disagree	107	11.1
Disagree/Strongly Disagree	50	5.3
Total	960	
Note 9 respondents answered don't know		

(e) Management priority should be given to woodland conservation as opposed to public access

	Number	%
Strongly Agree/Agree	427	44.9
Neither Agree nor Disagree	289	30.4
Disagree/Strongly Disagree	235	24.7
Total	951	
Note 13 respondents answered don't know		

agree or disagree with the following statements management:

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Individual consideration x23

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.

In favour of trees x23

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.

Reduce felling of trees/enforce TPO or tree replacement x17

More consultation with people about areas where trees are being removed, ie the trees cut down between Millfield Glade and Harrogate Golf Club means that people playing golf can now see into my bedroom!

Accessibility/public involvement x16

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.

Balance between conservation and recreation x15

There needs to be a balanced 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.

Five-year maintenance cycle insufficient x14

Five years can be too long a period, due to eg gales, which can cause serious damage to a tree, even one week after examination!

Specific areas which need attention x15

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.

Policies x12

The existing arrangements struck me, as a relative newcomer to the area, as admirable. If it ain't broke... why add more policies? Perhaps the Council needs a policies policy?

may not have a protection order. How can we find out and consider protection. Promotion of woodland i.e. Bilton/Knaresborough is not promoted enough to the council through the woodland trust does encourage use.

Problems caused by trees x8

Planting trees and bushes between roads and public footpaths, is, in years to come, going to make those footpaths unsafe to use.

Formation of volunteer groups/involvement of charities x8

The policy should encourage all communities and individuals to take an active part in promoting tree planting on both Council and private land to benefit any environment. Tree species should be of indigenous types and 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.

Need for protection/to increase trees and woodland x7

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 consideration is already given to trees on site, more effort should be made to consider longer term effects of the building works on trees, ie longer term effects of root disturbance/root pruning etc.

Action required against vandalism x7

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.

Cost implications x6

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.

Tourism x5

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.

Miscellaneous x32

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.

of 1,500 local people. Panel membership was constructed in such a way that it would represent the District in respect of gender, age, physical/mental impairment and location of residence.

- 4.2 The gender split of those responding to the consultation was similar to the profile of the panel overall, although a slightly higher proportion of males responded to the questionnaire.

Gender	Respondents		Panel	
	No.	%	No.	%
Male	444	51%	748	49.9%
Female	426	49%	752	50.1%
Total	870*		1500	

* 12 respondents did not supply this information

- 4.3 The response rate of young people aged 17 -24 and 25-34 was the lowest. The lower response rate has been noted in previous District Panel consultations and is assumed to result because young people may be less inclined to involve themselves in consultation activity and may also be more likely to move around (eg attend university etc) and not be readily available. Older age bands were correspondingly over-represented.

Age (yrs)	Respondents		Panel	
	No.	%	No.	%
17-24	4	0.5	90	6%
25-34	22	2.5	203	15.5%
35-44	111	12.7	349	23.3%
45-54	190	21.7	402	26.8%
55-64	253	28.9	233	15.5%
65+	294	33.6	223	14.9%
Total	874*		1500	

* 8 respondents did not supply this information
Note circumstances of respondents may have changed since panel demographics assessed

se by age findings, the response rate of people who were in the panel and those respondents who were in full time employment.

Economic position	Respondents		Panel	
	No.	%	No.	%
Employed	328		839	55.9%
Self employed	95		173	11.5%
Unemployed/govt. scheme	12		11	0.7%
Retired	388		313	20.9%
Student	3		52	3.5%
Looking after home/family	32		112	5.8%
Total	858		1500	

* 24 respondents did not supply this information
Note circumstances of respondents may have changed since panel demographics assessed

- 4.5 The response rate from those with a physical/mental impairment was slightly less proportionately (6.9%) than their proportion on the Panel (7.6%).

Table 4: Response by mobility – Do you suffer from any form of disability?				
<i>Yourself</i>				
	Respondents		Panel	
	No.	%	No.	%
Yes	59	6.9%	114	7.6
No	799	93.1%	1386	92.4
Total	858			

* 24 respondents did not supply this information

Are you a full-time carer for a disabled sick or elderly relative or partner?				
	No.	%	No.	%
Disabled	30	3.6%	115	7.7
Not disabled	811	96.4%	1385	92.3
Total	841			

*41 respondents did not supply this information.

- 4.6 The response rate from respondents in the Harrogate wards, the Knaresborough wards, the Ripon wards and the rural wards broadly reflected the percentage of members from these wards on the panel.

Table 5: Response by Area				
Harrogate Wards				
Overall	Respondents		Panel	
	No	%	No	%
Harrogate Wards	419	48.6	713	47.5%
Bilton	66	7.6	81	5.4
Granby	22	2.6	46	3.1

	3	5	58	3.9
	5	4.1	59	3.9
	5	5.3	71	4.7
	5	1.7	44	2.9
	0	3.5	60	4
Pannal	44	5.1	67	4.5
Rossett	37	4.3	72	4.8
Saltergate	15	1.7	38	2.5
Starbeck	17	2	32	2.1
Stray	40	4.6	55	3.7
Woodfield	9	1	30	2
Knaresborough Wards				
Knaresborough Wards	93	10.8	153	10.2
Knaresborough East	33	3.8	59	3.3
Knaresborough King James	36	4.2	56	3.9
Knaresborough Scriven Park	24	2.8	48	3.2
Ripon Wards				
Ripon Wards	91	10.6	162	10.8
Ripon Minster	25	2.9	41	2.7
Ripon Moorside	36	4.2	56	3.7
Ripon Spa	30	3.5	65	4.3
Rural Wards				
Rural Wards	259	30	472	31.5
Bishop Monkton	27	3.1	40	2.7
Boroughbridge	25	2.9	22	1.5
Claro	8	0.9	36	2.4
Killinghall	23	2.7	32	2.1
Kirkby Malzeard	14	1.6	25	2.7
Lower Nidderdale	21	2.4	31	2.1
Marston Moor	19	2.2	34	2.3
Mashamshire	14	1.6	35	1.5
Newby	11	1.3	36	2.3
Nidd Valley	8	0.9	26	1.7
Ouseburn	21	2.4	18	1.2
Pateley Bridge	18	2.1	15	1
Ribson	13	1.5	32	2.1
Spofforth with Lower Wharfedale	21	2.4	36	2.4
Washburn	9	1	27	1.8
Wathvale	7	0.8	27	1.8
*4 respondents did not supply this information				

- 4.7 The response rate from the different ethnic groups reflects the make up of the Di strict Panel; 98.4% of respondents cl assed themselves as Bri tish and 1.6% as belongi ng to other ethnic groups.

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		Panel		
		No	%	
British	851	1475	98.4	98.3
Irish	0	4	0	0.3
Any other White background	6	3	0.7	0.2
Caribbean	0	1	0	0.1
African	0	0	0	0
Any other Black background	0	1	0	0.1
White and Black Caribbean	3	1	0.3	0.1
White and Black African	0	3		0.2
White and Asian	1	2	0.1	0.1
Any other Mixed background	2	1	0.2	0.1
Indian	0	2	0	0.1
Pakistani	1	7	0.1	0.5
Bangladeshi	0	0	0	0
Any other Asian background	0	0	0	0
Chinese	0	0	0	0
Other Ethnic Group	1	0	0.1	0
Total	865			

17 Respondents did not supply this information

4.8 Overall, the response rate is broadly reflective of the make-up of the District Panel, albeit that those over 55 years old are somewhat proportionately over represented.

TREES & WOODLAND POLICY QUESTIONNAIRE

Location of Project: Harrogate District Boundaries

For further information contact:

Harrogate Borough Council Arboricultural Officer Paul Casey Tel: 01423 556749

Deadline for questionnaires: Friday 1 May 2009

- Q1** Do you feel that a Trees & Woodland Policy would be beneficial to the Council and its residents?
Please tick one box
- Yes
 No
 Don't know
- Q2** Do you feel satisfied that the Council's trees are managed to appropriate standards?
Please tick one box
- Yes
 No
 Don't know
- Q3** Do you feel that the level of tree cover currently associated with Harrogate and its district helps to contribute to its overall attractiveness, numbers of visitors it receives and desirability to live and work within it?
Please tick one box
- Yes
 No
 Don't know
- Q4** Do you feel that too many trees are felled or removed from Council land?
Please tick one box
- Yes
 No
 Don't know
- Q5** Do you feel that healthy trees should not be removed without having prior relevant justification to do so?
Please tick one box
- Yes
 No
 Don't know
- Q6** Do you feel that too many trees are planted in the urban environment?
Please tick one box
- Yes

ting figure of 2 for 1 in the urban setting is
tainability within the Council's district

boundaries?

Please tick one box

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q8 Would you like to see a higher replacement planting figure than 2 for 1 in the urban environment on an annual basis?

Please tick one box

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q9 Do you feel that an annual budget for tree planting should be allocated and set aside so as to ensure that an appropriate number of trees are replaced in any given year?

Please tick one box

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q10 Would you like to see areas currently devoid of trees or low in tree numbers being planted as priority sites with appropriate tree species?

Please tick one box

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q11 Do you feel that priority should be given to native tree species when considering tree replacement planting schemes on Council land?

Please tick one box

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q12 In line with current national guidelines, the Council aims to inspect each of its trees on a 5-year rotation as part of its Tree Survey Strategy. Do you feel that these timeframes are both efficient and economical and the best use of Council resources whilst trying to maintain the safest environment for all those that live and work within it?

Please tick one box

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

opting the best strategic approach
ent by only undertaking tree works
alth and safety concern?

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- NO
- Don't know

Q14 Do you feel that it is appropriate to request and consider all relevant technical information from third-parties when claims of damage are received by the Council that may implicate important trees, prior to considering the removal of such trees?

Please tick one box

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q15 Do you feel that the appropriate use of Planning Conditions and Tree Preservation Orders can help to protect landscape features and trees on development sites and privately owned land?

Please tick one box

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q16 When considering the overall Tree Policy, do you feel enough consideration is given towards the protection of wildlife and wildlife and landscape conservation?

Please tick one box

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Q17 If your answer is no, please state how you feel greater consideration can be given:

Please specify below

Agree or disagree with the following statements on woodland management:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Woodlands should be managed for conservation purposes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woodlands should be managed for recreation purposes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some woodland areas should be designated as 'exclusion zones' for the benefit of ecology and flora	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specific budgets should be set aside for the annual maintenance of all Council woodland sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management priority should be given to woodland conservation as opposed to public access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q19 Please outline any additional comments that you feel may be appropriate and relevant to the final Trees & Woodlands Policy document:
Please specify below

Q20 Are you? *Please tick one box*
 Male
 Female

Q21 How old are you? *Please tick one box*
 17-24
 25-34
 35-44
 45-54
 55-64
 65-74
 75+

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- Retired
- Student
- Looking after family or home

Q23 Do you consider yourself to have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and longterm effect on your ability to carry out normal day to day activities?

Please tick one box

- Yes
- No

Q24 Are you a full-time carer for a disabled, sick or elderly relative or partner?

Please tick one box

- Yes
- No

Q25 Which ward of Harrogate do you live in? *Please tick one box*

- Bilton
- Granby
- Harlow Moor
- High Harrogate
- Hookstone
- Low Harrogate
- New Park
- Pannal
- Rossett
- Saltergate
- Starbeck
- Stray
- Woodfield
- Knaresborough East
- Knaresborough King James
- Knaresborough Scriven Park
- Ripon Minster
- Ripon Moorside
- Ripon spa
- Bishop Monkton
- Boroughbridge
- Claro
- Killinghall
- Kirby Malzeard
- Lower Nidderdale
- Marston Moor
- Mashamshire
- Newby
- Nidd Valley
- Ouseburn
- Pateley Bridge

- Unknown Knaresborough Ward**
- Unknown Ripon Ward**
- Unknown Rural Ward**

Q26 To which of these groups do you consider you belong to? *Please tick one box*

- British*
- Irish*
- Any other White background*
- Caribbean*
- African*
- Any other Black background*
- White and Black Caribbean*
- White and Black African*
- White and Asian*
- Any other Mixed background*
- Indian*
- Pakistani*
- Bangladeshi*
- Any other Asian background*
- Chinese*
- Other ethnic group.*

Q27 Respondent

- Parish/Town Council*
- Councillor*
- Community Group*
- Rotary Club*
- In bloom Group*
- Conservation Group*
- member of general Public*
- Organisation*
- District Panel*

ree Policy, do you feel enough consideration is given
d wildlife and landscape conservation? If your
feel greater consideration can be given

Planning/Development x17

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 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.
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.
11. Stop taking the lands and trees off the animals.
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.
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.
14. Too many areas are concreted over (after trees removed). Front gardens of homes for parking therefore affecting wildlife.
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.
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.
17. Landscaping to be included in housing planning applications (outlined not detailed) Also water run-off consideration.

- at will enhance all wildlife. By planting trees, etc, that are is that benefit both birds and insects, leave some areas s 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.
 14. Better protection in woodland situations i.e. exclusion zones. Retention of trees for habitat purposes in open space, cemetery and woodland situations.
 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 household 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

Tree Removal x12

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 in the Pinewoods despite anxiety to myself and consequent reports by phone and assurance that they would be dealt with.

only when absolutely essential. The council has
in this area in the past, where they are needed for
nesting by birds.

if there is the same type of habitat nearby to sustain

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

Leave Wild x11

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 hedge row 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 detrimental to insects, birds, squirrels, etc.
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.

Experts/Science/Consultation x10

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 preserved is to ban humans from entering that area.
3. Call in the experts, rather than just planning officers.

people with the relevant knowledge regarding wildlife, etc.

organisations.

it'd be done.

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.

Inform/Involve x8

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 but I guess funding for everything right now is quite limited.

Conservation x6

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.

Boxes x5

1. Bird and bat boxes. Emphasis on encouraging biodiversity.
2. Use of poisons for pest control that do not affect birds - e.g. eradicant. 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.

s for insects, birds and their wildlife would be very relatively low cost. Also the grey squirrel population increased (or instigation of) culling.

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.

Priority x4

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 seem 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.

Correct Pruning x4

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 this can allow disease to take hold and makes them look ugly - like totem poles. In comers are often the ones to complain, but the trees are what makes Harrogate special.
3. Not remove during nesting period.
4. I've seen hedgerows cut back hard in autumn/winter, exposing wildlife & removing berries/nuts; I think too much consideration is given to cars and people and not enough to plants & animals. I've also seen very poor work with mangled trees and shrubs where the work has been carried out carelessly.

Hedges x3

1. Hedgerows are being continually ripped out, for what reason? Does the removal of hedges give the farms more land? Not enough consideration is being given to wildlife.
2. I give as an example the current improvement to the seating area on the Waterside in Knaresborough just by the railway viaduct. Although the seating will be attractive and the site no doubt safer, there has been a wholesale removal of the thick hedging that surrounded the old seating area. This was home to a colony of sparrows and other birds, which have gone.
3. Often trees within hedgerows have been cut down when hedgerows have been severely cut back or removed thus affecting wildlife.

y so do not know whether it is sufficient.

3. Trees, wildlife and surrounding nature should be considered. It is our responsibility to look after the world we live in.
4. Native tree species and under planting.
5. Difficult to respond more a gut answer to question. Need to segregate areas of importance to wildlife from people.
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 over used and untidy
9. Large and powerful organisations in particular.
10. Footpaths should be on the fringe of treescapes not through the middle.
11. More Consideration should be given

ents that you feel may be appropriate and relevant to
ment?

Individual consideration x23

1. 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, ie 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 advance.
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 their 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 principle 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 and clear of electrical/ communications wires to minimise accidents and therefore insurance claims. Currently this does not seem to be the case.
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

to be planted on council land. That way a problem tree will be planted.

that is close to housing, should be felled. Not only do that they could fall down, but they can block out sunlight - es to reduce their carbon footprint.

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.
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.
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.
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.
20. Woodland trees and other larger trees should not be in private gardens. The roots can damage underground pipes and can damage houses.
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.
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.
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.

In favour of trees x23

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.
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.
3. Harrogate should be an area of splendid trees and woodlands in keeping with its old traditions when it was the forest of Knarlesborough.
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 council are doing a good job now.
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.

asons notwithstanding they use/ remove tons of CO2
ing on a big scale rurally as well as in the urban areas.
f seeds avail able in autumn. Collect/ germinate/ grow on
lan they will be ready to plant in situ, this could minimise
nile 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 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.
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 impression is of a very open urbanisation which very few other towns can match.
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
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.

about areas where trees are being removed, i.e. the trees
e and Harrogate Golf Club means that people playing
om!

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.
3. Need to ensure that TPO's are actually monitored and enforced - else they are an expensive frivolity.
4. Not enough publicity is given to proposed tree felling, etc. It is appalling that an area of beautiful trees and 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.
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 of 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 should be followed up. Neighbours of mine took down lovely trees and never replanted.
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.
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.
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.
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.

tree in Harrogate (on Victoria Avenue) was felled and
fication that this was going to occur. It didn't seem to be a
tial hazard.

certain level of maturity they ought to receive automatic
ation orders and require an application to fell. This could

be refined by applying specific designated areas, e.g. Nidderdale AONB or other defined
areas on local maps.

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.

Accessibility/public involvement x16

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 public can have access and therefore appreciate
the beauty of trees and woodlands.
8. Woodland should be used for leisure and pleasure for adults and play and adrenalin 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
overzealousness 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

ivation purposes) facilities for rubbish and where

recreation x15

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 replanted to enhance and expand woodland provision combining leisure and woodland needs.
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.

Specific areas which need attention x15

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 Oatlands Drive? There is a very big gap here! I know a small sapling was put there 16 months

a larger tree needs to be put there to complete the

we have seen (presumably non-authorized) individuals
in winter - should be left to encourage wildlife.

There is 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.
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.
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.
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.

Five-year maintenance cycle insufficient x14

1. Five years can be too long a period, due to eg gales, which can cause serious damage to a tree, even one week after examination!
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 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.

the Council have at present maintained on a regular . Also on the housing estates the trouble they cause to s covered in a sticky substances, gutters blocked, ked light, telephone lines being interfered with, 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 any 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 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.
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 towns 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.

Policies x12

1. The Council appear to have a policy 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

s. The wide-open areas of the Stray are important
he number of trees that should be planted. I don't
policy on replanting 2 for 1. First one has to determine a
men trees - street trees - woodlands etc. Certain
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 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.

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 the job. Use money on trees not words on paper.
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

elling within Harrogate district it could be a useful place to
ay be required for trees protected under the Forestry Act
opses or woodlands. Members of the public are often
a protection but not of the Forestry Act. Mutual benefit for
arger 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 am
sure it will be well received by the community.

More information/education x9

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.
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?
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.
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.
7. People should be educated for the conservation of woodlands e.g. schools, etc.
8. We need to educate the public.
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!

Formation of volunteer groups/involvement of charities x8

1. The policy should encourage all communities and individuals to take an active part in promoting tree planting on both Council and private land to benefit any environment. Tree species should be of indigenous types and suitable for the location to avoid potential problems later. The public could pay for or sponsor planting schemes

f the Council. Trees are the lungs of communities and often underrated by the public.

online you appear to be grossly understaffed. Is anyone taking arboricultural courses - are they regularly given 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.
8. Has the council considered using volunteers?

Problems caused by trees x8

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 results in stress and anxiety for those affected by them. This should always be taken into account.

isting tree belts across the town and try to link them with as 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 consideration is already given to trees on site, more effort should be made to consider longer term effects of the building works on trees, ie longer term effects of root disturbance/root pruning etc.
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 overall 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.

Action required against vandalism x7

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 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. 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

ouncil intend to address the issue of vandalism in general planting?

with area have been vandali sed, branches broken off and d. This problem has to be addr essed, replacements all to be educated to appr eciate 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.

7. Harrogate must keep on planting trees to keep to our 'garden' status. As the young saplings might be destroyed by youngster s or youths, 2 to 1 might not be sufficient. In Salford Keys they have brilliant 'cages' to protect the trees, could we have si milar to protect our trees?

Cost implications x6

1. I think in this economic climate cash can be spent on mor e important matters than woodland and trees.
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.
3. If this policy for or against was adopted would this increase the burden on the tax?
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 developer s and corporates to sponsor woodl ands.

Tourism x5

1. Harrogate relies on its gardens, flowers and beauty attr acting tourists.
2. I think that Har rogate does a good job in providi ng 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 appear ances as necessar y for the benefit of those who reside here and visitors too, thus keepi ng 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 tr ees. Many friends and family have commented how attr active the town and sur rounding area are.
5. I think that Har rogate 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.

Miscellaneo us x31

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.
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 sough 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

demand to access private property without permission of

il more often, and not to be so dogmatic.

pecific questions about tree management. It makes sense,
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 woodl and (etc) conservation.
8. More weight should be given to the wishes or needs of private residents in connection with the management of trees on private land where that private resident has total responsibility i.e. safety, economic, management.
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.
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.
11. Question 8 - Risk of shading properties. Question 12 - Large input for questionable gain. Question 15 - Risk of antagonising owner's such trees can be encouraged to die.
12. Inflammable trees like eucalyptus should never be planted in woodlands around Harrogate District.
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.
14. Woodland footpaths should be managed e.g. wood chippings on muddy paths.
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.
16. Should not become part of the planning process committee as they lack common sense.
17. For health and safety reasons the 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.
18. You're asking a lot of specific technical questions that most people you are surveying will not know much about.
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?
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.
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.

area should be left to be used locally, and not taken to

in the timber trade. I am biased. Some management is
essed by the public.

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 its 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.

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.
26. It would be useful to be able to refer to a street map of woodlands in Harrogate showing
density of planting.
27. I am concerned that there are other priorities the council should be addressing.
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.
29. In the present changing climate what should be considered as native?
30. Q5 is a negative question in that it asks 'should trees not be...' I don't think trees 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.
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.
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 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. A Resident and tax payer.