

**Hartlepool Borough Council**

# **Hartlepool Tree Strategy**



**2020 - 2030**



## Background and Summary

In November 2005 Hartlepool Borough Council adopted 'A Strategy for Trees in Hartlepool', which provided a position statement and set out a number of aims and objectives with regard to the borough's trees.

The 2011 – 2016 Hartlepool Tree Strategy built on the achievements of the previous strategy and set out Hartlepool Borough Council's guiding principles on tree related issues.

This current strategy refreshes the previous, lapsed strategy.

An action plan, which forms section 4 of this strategy, has been prepared setting out what we hope to achieve between 2020 and 2030.



# Contents

1	Introduction .....	4
1.1	The Benefits that Trees Provide.....	4
1.1.1	Adapting to Climate Change.....	4
1.1.2	Improving Air Quality .....	5
1.1.3	Enhancing Wildlife and Biodiversity.....	5
1.1.4	Improving Health and Wellbeing .....	5
1.1.5	Enhancing the Local Economy .....	5
1.1.6	A Better Quality Urban Environment .....	6
1.2	Problems with Trees.....	6
2	Hartlepool Borough’s Trees.....	7
2.1	Publicly Owned Trees .....	8
2.1.1	Trees as a Public Asset .....	8
2.1.2	Tree Management and Responsibilities .....	8
2.1.3	Remedial Tree Works .....	9
2.1.4	Tree Planting on Public Land .....	10
2.1.5	Public Woodlands.....	11
2.2	Privately Owned Trees.....	12
2.2.1	Trees in Gardens.....	12
2.2.2	Privately Owned Woodlands.....	13
2.3	Trees and Development.....	13
2.4	Highways and Utilities Maintenance Works that Affect Trees.....	14
3	Tree Planting.....	15
4	Hedgerows	
4.1	Hedgerows	
4.2	Hedgerow Regulations	
5	Aims and Objectives of the Tree Strategy.....	16
6	Action Plan 2020 - 2030.....	17
	Contacts.....	20

# 1. Introduction

Hartlepool Borough Council aims to improve the quality of life for people in the town and wider borough, and trees can make a significant positive contribution to that quality of life. We want our town to have a plentiful, healthy and attractive tree population that is managed and maintained to a high standard for the benefit of all, and a borough that has functioning and connected woodlands.

Through its management of publicly owned trees, and through its control of privately owned trees in conservation areas or with Tree Preservation Orders, the Council has considerable influence over the contribution that trees make to the urban landscape of the borough.

By adopting this updated tree strategy Hartlepool Borough Council further demonstrates its commitment to caring for the woods and trees under its management and increasing the number of trees in public places.

## 1.1 The Benefits that Trees Provide

Trees and woodlands provide a wide range of environmental, economic and social benefits, often referred to as Ecosystem Services. They have a vital role to play in the sustainability of our borough. Some of these benefits are outlined in the following section.

### 1.1.1 Adapting to Climate Change

Trees have an important role in helping society adapt to climate change, particularly in the urban environment. They provide shelter, cooling, shade and help slow the rate of rainwater runoff.

Trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, a greenhouse gas which is impacting on the Earth's climate.



### 1.1.2

#### Improving Air Quality

Trees are known to have a beneficial effect on air quality by absorbing pollutants and trapping airborne particles. This is particularly important with regard to the smaller dust particles which are often a causal factor in respiratory complaints such as asthma.

### 1.1.3

#### Enhancing Wildlife and Biodiversity

After the last Ice Age, 12,000 years ago, large areas of England were covered with a mosaic of habitats dominated by connected woodland. Much of our native wildlife is adapted to a habitat with trees in it. For example, trees such as Willow and Oak can have over 400 different species of insect associated with them and many garden birds rely on trees and shrubs - especially native ones.

Trees are nourished with the help of soil fungi that break down chemicals, making them available to the tree. These fungi connect with millions of fine roots, which grow just under the surface. The root plate of a tree is the tree's life line and is at least as large as the spread of its canopy. This is why it is essential not to store heavy materials or salted grit, spill chemicals, or plough under the canopy of a tree, if it is to remain healthy.

Trees generally have three stages in their life and each stage is important for biodiversity. The Oak for example, may grow for 300 years, mature for 300 years and take 300 years to die. Where safe to do so, dying and dead trees will be left for the benefit of their unique biodiversity.

Trees in streets can provide natural links with parks and green spaces, allowing for the movement of wildlife between areas.

### 1.1.4

#### Improving Health and Wellbeing

It is now scientifically accepted that green, leafy surroundings improve health and wellbeing. A well treed urban landscape is also more sheltered, more stimulating, and more likely to encourage local journeys on foot or by bike.



Hospital patients with a view of trees have been shown to recover more effectively and require less pain killing medication than those who only have a treeless view of buildings.

The dappled shade of trees can help to reduce heat-induced stress amongst people and animals, and summer shade is seen as particularly important in car parks, school grounds and around retirement homes.

### 1.1.5

#### Enhancing the Local Economy

An environment that is aesthetically pleasing is increasingly recognised as an important requirement for successful

businesses. A tree-rich urban landscape will be more successful in attracting new business and inward investment.

Residential neighbourhoods that have a green and leafy character will generally exhibit higher house prices. Studies in the UK have shown that average house prices are higher where the property is associated with mature trees.



### **1.1.6 A Better Quality Urban Environment**

The presence of high quality, well managed trees and woodlands can dramatically enhance the appearance of an urban environment. This in turn has a significant bearing on peoples perceptions, both of their surroundings and their quality of life.

A good quality public realm can encourage fuller use of an area and positively influence the behaviour of people. Careful attention to the design quality and attractiveness of streets and public areas will increase their safety and use, and will promote greater respect toward the local environment.

It is worth remembering that many of the most significant trees in our town were planted around a century ago, providing a living legacy for everyone to enjoy and benefit from today. The trees that we plant now will greatly improve the local environment for our children, and their children.

## **1.2 Problems with Trees**

It is true to say that the close proximity of trees, people and built structures will occasionally result in inconvenience. Problems may include the obstruction of light into homes, leaf fall, sap drip, interference with highway sight lines and direct or indirect damage to structures. The majority of tree related problems can, however, be mitigated by appropriate maintenance.

Additionally, many of the future nuisance issues and maintenance costs associated with trees can be minimised by following the principle of planting the right tree in the right place. It is essential that careful consideration is given to the location of new trees and the species selected.

Ensuring public safety and avoiding injury to people or damage to property are paramount and can be achieved through a sensible and pragmatic approach that pays due consideration to both safety and trees.



## 2. Hartlepool Borough's Trees

Tree cover in Hartlepool is sparse (at 4.1% of land area) when compared to other areas of the country (10% in England and 13% in the UK). The percentage for European countries is 38%. This is due partly to historical land clearance for agriculture and the use of wood for charcoal burning, pit props and ship building and partly to the rapid expansion of the town since the early 1800s. The borough's main areas of woodland are along the western boundary from Wynyard to Crookfoot Reservoir and in the northern denes.

Within the town there are examples where the presence of trees have transformed the image of an area, notable in this respect are the tree-lined verges along the main approaches which provide a very attractive introduction to the town by road.

A condition survey of all publicly owned trees was completed in 2007 for the purposes of identifying where trees may pose a risk to the public or property, but also assessed the general health of the trees and made recommendations for their future management. A programme of remedial tree works was subsequently undertaken which addressed the recommendations of the survey.

The survey found that the borough's publicly owned trees were generally in good condition, due largely to a combination of the facts that most of the trees are relatively young and are of hardy species.

The survey also identified certain areas where improvements in tree management could be made.

Trees make a positive contribution to the character of a number of the conservation areas in the town. The majority of these trees are located in private gardens; however, the Council has some influence over these trees through the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

An extensive programme of new tree planting was carried out in the north of the town between 2008 and 2010. This included the planting of around 300 trees of a variety of species in streets and in public open spaces.

Hartlepool's tree population has developed over many years and will continue to change. Some trees will be lost, while more are planted in a continual cycle of regeneration. Given the benefits that trees provide we must ensure that the borough's trees are afforded the status they deserve, and that their future is secured for generations to come.

## 2.1 Publicly Owned Trees

For the purposes of this tree strategy, the publicly owned trees in the borough include all those that are managed by the Council and comprise trees in streets, on highway verges, in public open spaces, parks, community woodlands, cemeteries, schools, and council owned properties.



### 2.1.1 Trees as a Public Asset

The cost of carrying out tree maintenance works and of planting new trees is met on an ad-hoc basis through the budget of the relevant Council service areas and a small tree management budget.

### 2.1.2 Tree Management and Responsibilities

Hartlepool Borough Council, as a land owner, has a duty under various Acts of Parliament to ensure that its trees do not pose an unacceptable risk to people or property and has a responsibility to preserve and enhance an attractive environment for the town's residents and visitors.



The management of Hartlepool's publicly owned trees has typically followed a



reactive system. This approach means that the town's publicly owned trees have not received systematic planned inspections and routine maintenance to ensure they are effectively and sustainably managed.



In addition to this reactive approach, responsibility for the borough's trees is divided between a number of different departments and sections. In combination these factors can, on occasion, lead to inefficient tree management. Ideally, an integrated approach to tree management that embraces all aspects of the Council's tree-related activities in a coherent and coordinated way should be adopted.

Under an Act of Parliament, the Council has a duty to 'have regard for biodiversity' in all of its functions and this includes its approach to trees.

A database of all publicly owned trees is recorded on the council's corporate Geographic Information System (GIS).

The Council will undertake to develop the use of the corporate GIS to monitor and record Council tree management works, including new tree planting and works to existing trees, to ensure that the objectives of the tree strategy are met.

### **2.1.3 Remedial Tree Works**

Trees are living organisms and are constantly, albeit quite slowly, growing and changing. As such, in some circumstances within urban areas, they will require careful management. This may include pruning works, and in some cases removal, with the overall aim of maintaining tree cover in a healthy and safe condition.

Trees of amenity value will not be felled unless there is a very clear justification for the work and each case will be carefully judged on its merits. That said, there will be circumstances where due to their condition it is necessary to remove individual trees. Where practical and appropriate, the Council will undertake to plant a new tree in the same location.

The Council will not prune trees to improve television reception or to remove seasonal nuisances such as fallen leaves.

Where there are implications for biodiversity, trees are assessed by the Council's Ecologist prior to pruning or felling to ensure that there are no breeding birds, roosting bats or other wildlife likely to be harmed.

All maintenance work on publicly owned trees is undertaken by trained and qualified arborists located in the Grounds Maintenance section, and is carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010 – Tree work. Recommendations.

#### **2.1.4 Tree Planting on Public Land**

In order to maintain and enhance an abundant and healthy tree population it is necessary to have an ongoing programme of new and replacement planting.

New tree planting is selected for its appropriateness of scale and proportion to the surroundings and for its aesthetic contribution. Factors such as robustness, form, flower, leaf density, rooting habit and propensity to harbour aphids are all considered. In addition to this, a particular consideration when selecting trees for planting in Hartlepool is their ability to tolerate the coastal environment.



The Council will identify further opportunities for tree planting in public open space, parks, cemeteries and on other public land.

Additionally, the Council will endeavour to meet residents' requests for new tree planting where appropriate and where funds permit.

All of the publicly owned woods in the borough are planted to capacity. There are some areas within the borough where trees have been too densely planted, and/or with an inappropriate choice of species. The Council will undertake to implement programmes of thinning and/or replacement. These programmes will be phased over a number of years, and will provide a more suitable variety of tree species, at improved spacing, ensuring that the considerable amenity that these areas afford is enhanced.

Crime and the fear of crime is a key consideration in the design and layout of tree planting in the public realm. When planting trees the Council will ensure that they are appropriately spaced and that crowns are maintained at an appropriate height so as not to hinder natural surveillance and to avoid the creation of dark areas where concealment is possible.

Tree planting is undertaken between November and March and is carried out in accordance with BS 4043:1989 Recommendations for transplanting root-balled trees by trained and qualified Grounds Maintenance staff.

### 2.1.5

#### Public Woodlands

Many people value woodlands for the sense of tranquility and wonder, which they create, for their springtime carpets of bluebells, bird song, colours, sounds and textures. Woods provide inspiration for art, music and literature and provide materials for crafts. They are also a living environmental education resource.

Woods can also be dark, quiet and for some people spooky places.

Some visitors may have fears about personal safety. These fears, however, can often be mitigated by well-designed and managed woodlands, which include open structure, good sightlines and waymarking.

There are a number of public woodlands within the borough, such as Family Wood in the Burn Valley, which have good paths and management plans aimed at enhancing the value of these sites for wildlife, recreation and visual amenity.



## **2.2 Privately Owned Trees**

Much of the town's mature tree cover is located on privately owned land, particularly in gardens. Although trees may be on private property, their size and prominence often means that they contribute significantly to the quality and amenity of the wider environment.

General tree related advice and guidance is available from the Council's Arboricultural Officer for tree owners or those considering planting a tree or trees on private land.

### **2.2.1 Trees in Gardens**

The Town and Country Planning Act enables the Council to designate Conservation Areas within which trees are protected, to make Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), and to control development

activity through the use of planning conditions, section 106 agreements, or both, in accordance with policies contained in the Hartlepool Local Plan. Through these means, the Council has considerable influence over trees in private ownership. There are currently 250 TPOs in force in Hartlepool, and eight Conservation Areas.



The Council will continue to make TPOs to protect privately owned trees of high amenity value from unnecessary felling or disfigurement and will make use of its planning powers to ensure that all works undertaken on protected trees is done in accordance with BS 3998:2010.

The corporate GIS is the established tool for the electronic recording of TPOs and other tree issues. The Council will continue to develop the use of this tool.

## 2.2.2

### Privately Owned Woodlands

There are several privately owned woodlands in the borough, many of which have public rights of way running through them. Some of these woodlands, such as The Howls, Thorpe Bulmer Dene and Close Wood are, or have elements of, ancient semi-natural woodland which means that there has been continuous woodland on that site since at least 1600 AD, making these woods one of the most valuable natural habitat types in the UK. They are classed as 'irreplaceable'.

All areas of woodland are statutorily protected through the requirement to first obtain a felling licence from the Forestry Commission prior to carrying out any tree felling operations.

The council will undertake to use its statutory powers and influence where appropriate to encourage the take up of grants for the planting of new areas of woodland and the management of existing areas, in order to increase and enhance woodland cover within the borough.

## 2.3

### Trees and Development

There is a statutory duty for local planning authorities (in this case Hartlepool Borough Council) to ensure, wherever appropriate, that in granting planning permission for any development, adequate provision is made for the preservation or planting of trees.

Hartlepool Borough Council has produced a Supplementary Planning Document in 2013 entitled

'Trees and Development Guidelines' which forms part of the Hartlepool Local Plan. The purpose of the guide is to provide information to those involved in development on the standards that Hartlepool Borough Council will expect from new development proposals. The guide seeks to ensure that trees are afforded due consideration in the planning process so that they can be successfully integrated into new developments.



The retention of existing trees within new developments provides an immediate sense of maturity, to the benefit of a site and its surroundings, raising the overall quality of schemes and enhancing property values. However, where trees are damaged and subsequently decline and die, or where inappropriate design leads to conflict, trees can become a constant source of complaint and ultimately any positive benefits are lost.

In order to effectively protect existing trees on development sites, the Council will ensure that all development and construction work impacting on trees is carried out in accordance with its 'Trees and Development Guidelines' and with

BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations. Where developments affect existing trees, the Council recommend that the developer seek the advice of a suitably qualified arboriculturist.

In addition to the retention of existing trees, new tree planting should be recognised from the outset as an integral part of any development scheme, and should be purposefully designed to complement the proposed features of the development. On sites that have no trees whatsoever, it is particularly important to plan for the planting of trees as part of the development.

## **2.4 Highways and Utilities Maintenance Works that Affect Trees**

Modern society expects many services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage, telecommunication and cable television, each of which requires an extensive distribution network, both above and below ground. The space available for both trees and apparatus is often restricted, and they are frequently forced to share the available space. Where they are in close proximity, there is the potential for either to be subject to damage. In order to minimise this, trees will not generally be planted in highway verges. Trees in highway verges are also vulnerable to accidental damage by mowing and by winter salt spreading.

The Council will ensure all work for utility services affecting trees is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines published by the National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) Volume 4 'Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility apparatus in proximity to trees'. When granting consents for new development the Council will use planning conditions to ensure the location of new services to developments do not damage existing trees or preclude the planting of new trees.

## 3. Trees Planting

### 3.1 Tree species and planting good practice

Native species of tree should be selected for planting in natural locations, such as connecting existing wooded greenspaces. On the coast, only suitable salt and wind tolerant species should be chosen. Local provenance trees will be sourced where possible, however, non-native and ornamental species may be suitable in urban areas. Indeed, some non-native species may become better suited to the borough in a warming climate.

Tree nurseries and organisations such as the Woodland Trust grow trees in nurseries to sell or give away. Most trees are planted as 'whips', which are bare rooted trees about 50cm tall. Gel is often added to the roots to prevent them drying out. Trees rarely survive if their roots are allowed to dry. Trees should be planted during their dormant period (approximately November to March) following published guidelines on how to plant. Planted whips require maintaining as they suffer from

weed competition, drought, rabbit grazing, and vandalism. Tree spirals (mostly biodegradable) are often used to protect whips from rabbits. Recently planted trees need plenty of water.

Older and taller trees are more expensive and are referred to as 'standards' or 'semi-standards'. They require careful planting, usually with a stake to prevent wind throw. Standards can be slow to establish and whips will often establish quicker and outgrow them.

### 3.2 Natural Habitats

Trees should not be planted on existing semi-natural habitats such as flower-rich grassland, sand dunes and floodplain grassland, which are important in their own right. Indeed, trees are unwelcome on some habitats such as flower-rich grassland verges and the Council keeps these tree free.

### 3.3 Carbon Capture

In terms of the ability to capture and hold carbon, all habitats are effective at doing this. Therefore, where trees are planted with the main aim of capturing carbon they should be planted on sites that have little existing carbon capture capacity, such as arable farmland. In 2019, tree planting caught the public imagination as a good way to tackle climate change. However, the Council recognises that other natural habitats, such as wetlands, also perform this function.

### 3.4 Re-wilding

The year 2019 was also one in which 're-wilding' was widely discussed. Areas left to nature, re-wild on their own accord, with the most suitable tree species for that location establishing. It is often unnecessary to plant trees, simply allowing nature the time and space to establish scrub and woodland instead. Many saplings, especially ash and sycamore, grow abundantly in gardens, where they may not be appropriate due to their positioning and eventual size. Unfortunately, as saplings put down a deep tap root, it is difficult to successfully dig them up and transplant them.



## 4. Hedgerows

### 4.1 Hedgerows

Hedges can be divided into two types; those in town, which generally are garden boundary features, and hedges or hedgerows in the countryside that are field boundaries. The latter have some protection under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. Hedgerows can make an important contribution to the character of an area and may be historically, archaeologically and ecologically significant. They can also reduce soil erosion and water run-off from arable land.

Originally, hedgerows were planted to mark ownership boundaries, and provide stock-proof barriers between fields. Some have older origins and may be the remnants of ancient woodland carved out for farmland. Miles of hedgerows were planted under the Enclosures Acts of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is these more recent hedges that tend to be straight and dominated by hawthorn.

Traditionally, hedges are 'laid', a craft where the stems are partially cut through low down, and the trunks bent over sideways and fixed by stakes, creating a thick base to the hedge and filling gaps. Hedge laying is carried out in late winter, before the nesting season and when most berries have been eaten.

Hedges are effectively strips of woodland edge habitat, coming in many shapes and sizes, ranging from narrow single species lines to thick, tangled multi-species hedges. They are wildlife corridors and provide nesting for countryside birds. The best hedges for wildlife are thick and broadest at the bottom with a range of woody species such as hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, hazel and holly.

The Countryside Survey of 2007 recorded 547,000 km of hedgerow in England. In Hartlepool, the majority of hedges are associated with the rural hinterland, particularly west of the town and around Greatham Village. There are few 'species-rich' hedgerows in the borough (as defined by the Hedgerow Regulations).

Hedgerows have enjoyed protection since 1997 when the Hedgerow Regulations were introduced. These Regulations were a direct response to the alarming loss of hedgerows from the countryside as farmers sought to increase field size in order to accommodate larger farm machinery. Many remaining hedges have been severely trimmed, neglected and damaged by drifting agricultural chemicals.



## 4.2 Hedgerow Regulations

The 1997 Regulations offers some protection for hedgerows of more than 20m in length, or which join other hedgerows provided they adjoin agricultural land, woodland, paddocks, common land, village greens, a Site of Special Scientific Interest or a Local Nature Reserve. Garden hedges are not covered by this legislation.

In order to remove such a hedgerow an owner must serve notice on the [local planning authority](#) who then decides if it is 'important' and if so, whether it should be retained. If the owner is notified that it is not important or hears nothing within six weeks then they may remove the hedgerow. If a notice is issued by the local planning authority requiring the hedgerow's retention, then removal of the hedgerow becomes a criminal offence.

A hedgerow is considered 'important' if it has existed for 30 years or more and it meets one of the criteria set out in the Regulations, which include:

- It marks a boundary between parishes existing before 1850;
- It marks an archaeological feature of a site that is a [scheduled monument](#) or noted on the [Historic Environment Record](#);
- It marks the boundary of a pre-1600 estate, manor or a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts;
- It has the qualifying number of tree species in a 30m length, or woodland plant species growing in the hedge.

The Council supports the retention and creation of hedgerows due to their important role in connecting habitats and adding to countryside character.



## 5. Aims and Objectives of the Tree Strategy

**The overall aim of the Hartlepool Tree Strategy is to enhance the role which trees and woods play in providing ecosystem services, to promote the status of trees and woodlands in the borough and to ensure the sustainability of the borough's tree population.**

This aim can be realised by achieving the following objectives:

1. Retain and protect the borough's existing trees and woods.
2. Maintain and monitor the borough's publicly owned trees and woods using good arboricultural management.
3. Increase the number of trees and woods in the borough.

In response to the overall aim and objectives, an action plan has been created and forms section 5 of this strategy.

Alongside this document a plan indicating areas suitable for tree planting is being developed. This will assist in supporting community groups who may have access to trees, via charitable bodies such as the Woodland Trust, in finding the most appropriate places for them to be located. The plan will be updated as new sites become available to ensure that a wide range of planting opportunities can be offered across the town.

## 6. Action Plan 2020 – 2030

**6.1** An action plan has been prepared to support this tree strategy. It sets out what the Council will achieve between 2020 and 2030. It identifies the key actions necessary to meet the objectives of the tree strategy and the service areas with responsibility for implementation of each key action.

A review of progress in implementing the action plan and an assessment of its ongoing relevance will be conducted after five years. If necessary, elements of the tree strategy may be revised to reflect the results of the review.

### Key to Service Area Abbreviations

<b>H&amp;C</b>	Heritage & Countryside
<b>LD</b>	Legal Division
<b>HT&amp;T</b>	Highways, Traffic & Transportation Team
<b>PS</b>	Planning Services
<b>ES</b>	Environmental Services
<b>E&amp;AM</b>	Estates & Asset Management

### Action Plan 2020 – 2030

#### Objective 1

#### Retain and protect the borough's existing trees and woods

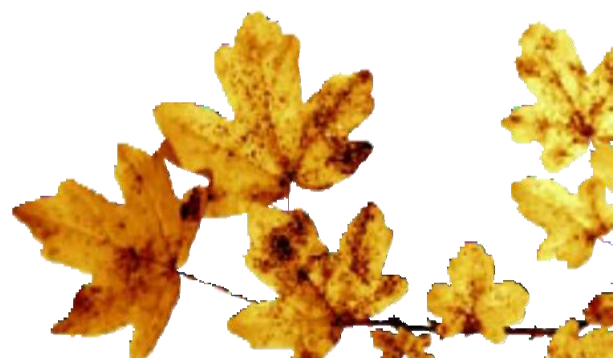
Action	Service
1. Protect privately owned trees of amenity value using Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate	PS
2. Keep the borough's Tree Preservation Orders under review and revoke and remake Orders as necessary.	PS, LD
3. Make full use of the Council's powers of enforcement with regard to TPO's, trees in conservation areas and planning obligations with regard to trees by responding to complaints and proactively monitoring outcomes.	PS, LD
4. Ensure that, through effective engagement in the planning process, existing trees are retained on development sites where appropriate and that they are adequately protected. Where trees cannot be retained compensatory trees should be planted.	PS, H&C
5. Continue to use the corporate GIS for the monitoring of Tree Preservation Orders and other tree issues	PS
6. Through effective engagement in the planning process require in-situ trees to be retained in developments	PS

## Action Plan 2020 – 2030

### Objective 2

Maintain and monitor the borough's publicly owned trees and woods using good arboricultural management

Action	Service
1. Use the corporate GIS for the monitoring and management of all publicly owned woods and trees	H&C, PS, ES
2. Develop and implement a programme of cyclical inspection and maintenance of all publicly owned trees	H&C, PS, ES
3. Ensure that, where appropriate, publicly owned trees that must be felled are replaced with a new tree in the same location	H&C, PS, ES
4. Prepare and deliver management plans for all publicly owned woodlands, including parks and cemeteries	H&C, PS, ES



## Action Plan 2020 – 2030

### Objective 3

Increase the number of trees and woods in the borough

Action	Service
1. Acquire land on which to create new woodland	H&C, E&AM, LD
2. Identify and map suitable Council-owned sites for tree planting initiatives. Target greenspace corridors and boundaries of development, particularly where existing hedgerows and copses can be connected	H&C, E&AM
3. Prepare and submit tree planting funding bids	H&C
4. Liaise with charitable organisations such as the Woodland Trust to ensure free tree offers meet Council requirements	H&C, PS
5. Encourage and assist land owners to take up grant aid for tree planting and woodland establishment and management	H&C
6. Review and update tree related information on the Council's website	PS
7. Through effective engagement in the planning process require tree planting in relation to all new major developments	PS

## Action Plan 2020 – 2030

### Objective 4

#### Retain and protect hedgerows in the borough

Action	Service
1. Retain and protect hedgerows through planning duties.	PS, H&C, LD
2. Encourage developers to create and strengthen hedges as boundary features around sites.	PS, H&C, LD
3. When opportunities arise create hedgerows on Council owned green space where they link together other tree planting initiatives.	H&C, ES, E&AM

# Contacts



## **Hartlepool Borough Council**

Customer Services  
Contact Centre  
Civic Centre  
Victoria Road  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

**Tel:** 01429 266522

**Email:** [customer.service@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@hartlepool.gov.uk)

## **Arboricultural Officer**

Planning Services  
Level 1 Civic Centre  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

**Tel:** 01429 523414

**Email:** [development.control@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:development.control@hartlepool.gov.uk)

## **Ecologist**

Heritage & Countryside  
Level 1 Civic Centre  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

**Tel:** 01429 523431

**Email:** [heritage.countryside@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:heritage.countryside@hartlepool.gov.uk)



