



Okehampton Town Council

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## Tree Policy Statement (Planning Committee)

In consultation with WDBC's Tree Officer the following statement in relation to planning applications for trees has been approved:

Each case will be considered separately on individual circumstances. However, the Planning Committee is likely to object to the felling of purposefully protected trees or those afforded A or B classification within a tree report in accordance with BS5837 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition & Construction unless it is agreed that the mitigation strategy detailed within Policy DEV28<sup>1</sup> of the Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan (JLP) Supplementary Planning Guidance can be applied.

### **JLP – Policy DEV28, Trees, woodlands and hedgerows**

Development that would result in the loss or deterioration of the quality of:

- Ancient woodland, aged or veteran trees or impact on their immediate surroundings
- Other woodlands or high amenity trees including protected trees
- Important hedgerows including Devon hedgebanks;

will not be permitted unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss and this can be demonstrated.

Development should be designed so as to avoid the loss or deterioration of woodlands, trees or hedgerows. If the loss of trees, woodlands or hedgerows cannot be avoided, new native and locally appropriate trees and hedgerows will be secured as mitigation to ensure they contribute a 'net gain'. Mitigation should be delivered on site, but if this is not achievable, offsite compensation will be required to provide a net gain in canopy cover in line with local standards.

Exception will be considered if the tree/s are proven to be dangerous, affecting a significant engineered structure or that the proposed works are considered to be in the interests of good arboricultural management.'

### **Definitions:**

Purposefully protected – Self set trees, those that grow without being intentionally planted, that have been caught up in a blanket area TPO that it would be inappropriate to keep; ie there is not enough room for them to grow without affecting the structure of a property.

A or B classification – An overview of the condition of the tree in a planning context. British Standard (BS) reports can only be prepared by competent professionals.

A + B tree conditions are good

C + U classified trees would generally be allowed to be felled

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<sup>1</sup> <https://democracy.plymouth.gov.uk/documents/s99427/Joint%20Local%20Plan%20SPD.pdf>