

Planting Trees on Council Land – Draft Guidance

16th March 2016

You want to see a tree planted on Council owned land, and the location is already agreed

You can sponsor a tree using our on-line service at www.bristol.gov.uk/treebristolponsorship.

Trees available for sponsorship are in locations that have already been agreed via a process which includes consultation and, where necessary, agreement by the local Neighbourhood Partnership.

Once sponsorship payment has been received, tree planting will take place in the next available season which runs from December to March.

You want to see a tree planted on council owned land, but the location is not yet agreed

We are unable to receive sponsorship for locations that have not been agreed.

If you have ideas to see tree(s) planted in your area, we will put you in touch with your Neighbourhood Partnership's Environmental Sub Group. They will help you get a tree plan started or your idea may contribute to a plan which is being prepared.

What is a Tree Planting Plan?

A Tree Planting Plan shows agreed locations where people would like to see trees planted. The council is only able to agree tree planting plans on land that is owned and managed by the council. The first stage is for the community to prepare a draft plan. The suitability of each location will be considered by council officers. Where new tree planting is proposed consultation will be required before acceptance by the Neighbourhood Partnership. Where new tree planting involves the adopted highway, approval to plant will be required under the council's Quality Assurance process. It may not be possible to plant trees in some locations, because cables or pipes may be immediately underground, or the pavement is too narrow, or residents object. We will do our best to allow as many trees to be planted where people want them and where there is funding.

Tree Champions – what do they do?

Tree Champions are volunteers available to support NP environmental sub group's progress tree planting plans. Tree Champions have a passion for trees, but are acknowledged non-experts. For details about the role of Tree Champions please visit the Bristol Tree Forum web site:

<http://www.euronova.co.uk/BristolTreeForum.htm>

When can we plant trees?

We only plant trees during their dormant season, which runs from December to March. We may plant trees outside this period if there are overriding ceremonial reasons.

We can plan for tree planting all year round so that schemes are ready for planting from December.

What is the last date for ordering a tree to be planted?

The deadline for order trees for planting is the 31st December to guarantee planting in the following January, February or March. Orders after the 31st December will be programmed for the following tree planting season starting in December that year.

What does it cost to plant a tree?

A Replacement in a park/open space/street/verge	£295
A New tree in a parks / open space	£295
A New tree in a street	£295 + cost of tree pit ¹

¹The likely minimum charge for a tree pit is £1,500 - this is to be confirmed following trial working.

Each tree planted:

- Trees planted are around 3 metres tall (10 feet) and protected with metal guards, and
- Watered for two-years' to make sure the tree becomes fully established.

For an addition £25 per tree a plaque can be attached to the guarding around the tree. The plaque is 50mm x 100mm and can accommodate a message typically up to seven words. The plaque and guards will typically be removed 3 years after planting when the tree should be established.

Note: additional charges apply where tree planting is funded through section 106 payments made by developers. For example, each £765 / tree recovered from developers, £295 is used to plant the tree, £77 (10%) is a project management fee and £393 is a contribution for maintenance of the tree.

What does it cost to maintain a tree?

The cost to plant a tree does not include the cost to maintain it. The cost to maintain a tree over its life differs greatly depending on location and species (and other site factors): a large growing tree such as a London plane will need to be pruned regularly to maintain it at a maximum size, whereas a cherry tree growing in a park may only need light and less frequent pruning to keep it healthy. Where funds for tree planting come from section 106 payments made by developers, each payment includes £393 per tree as a contribution for its maintenance. This sum is 'fed' into the council's tree maintenance budget on an annual basis.

What needs to be considered when thinking about planting a tree?

The ambition is to double Bristol's tree canopy to 30% from around 14% today. Trees make places more attractive, help clean the air, provide homes for wildlife, provide fruit and nuts, help reduce the risk of flooding and make us feel better. But, we have a responsibility to avoid planting the wrong trees in the wrong place, such as large growing trees in small spaces, or trees physically unsuited to site conditions.

In thinking about what trees to plant, we suggest you think first about what benefits you hope to get. This helps to select the most suitable type of tree. Below is a list of some of the benefits from tree planting (it is okay to want more than one benefit):

So, in thinking about planting a tree, do you want?

- Light shade?
- To make the area more attractive?
- Block noise from a busy road?
- Improve air quality?
- Block an ugly view?
- Grow food such as fruit or nuts?
- Attract wildlife?

- Make streets safer by using trees to calm traffic?
- Reduce flooding risk?
- Simply want to enjoy a tree through the seasons and watch it grow?

You also need to think about what may prevent tree planting, such as

- Will a tree block visibility?
- Will it cause undue nuisance?
- Are there services (above and below ground) such as cables and pipes?
- Is there space for the tree to grow to maturity?

A design guide has been created that explains the process council tree officers take when selecting tree species for planting in Bristol.

[Add: tree planting design guide](#)

There is a wide choice of tree species available and many are suitable for planting in Bristol. Since 2008 the council has planted around 5,000 specimen trees. The document below lists the species of tree we have planted. It is important that we plant a good variety of trees to avoid the risk of disease, as such we adhere to the 30:20:10 'rule-of-thumb'. This means that we avoid planting more than 30% (by numbers) from the same Family, 20% from the same Genus and 10% of the same Species.

[Add: summary of Trees Planted in Bristol since 2008](#)

Each area of the city has an allocated tree officer with in depth knowledge about the trees in their area including which trees would perform best in any location. The tree officers are best placed to make the final decision about tree species selection, but of course this may well match up with your preferences which we will bear in mind.

Planting Trees in Parks and Open Spaces (that are owned and managed by the Council)

- Replacement Tree

A replacement tree is a location where a tree has been growing until recently. Typically, we leave a tree stump to confirm that the location is available for replacement planting. Because this is a replacement tree, consultation is not necessary. We would check for below ground services before planting. Once the species of tree has been agreed, re-planting is straightforward once the stump has been removed and ground-out. The cost per tree is £295.

In locations where there has been a tree in the same place, but the tree stump has been removed we believe that we should consult people affected by re-planting (in that they may have no expectation that the location is awaiting a replacement tree). Under these circumstances we would inform immediate residents of the intention to replace a missing tree and ask for any comments.

- New Tree

A new tree is a location that has not had a tree here recently (no evidence of a tree in this location within the last 5-years). Because this is a new location, consultation will be required. We would check for below ground services before planting. The cost per tree is £295.

- Trees in Grass Verges

We generally treat grass verges the same as parks and open spaces and the same costs apply. However, there are times when we would have to consider a grass verge the same as streets where

differing process for tree planting and costs apply. The council's Tree officer for the area would be the person who makes this decision along with the Council's Highways officer.

Planting Trees in Streets

- Replacement Tree

Arrangements are as per Replacement trees in parks and open spaces. Generally we are allowed to replace trees in street without the need (and cost) of an engineered tree pit. Exception would be when the original tree was causing problems that could not be addressed by a change of tree species.

- New Tree

A new street tree is a location that has not had a tree here recently (within the last 5-years). To plant a new tree in the pavement or street a tree pit will be required to minimise the risk of damage to the surrounding surfaces / structures. A tree pit includes a root deflector, urban tree soil and construction to allow a load bearing surface.

A minimum 2.2 metre pavement width is required to plant a new tree in the pavement to include the required tree pit. If the pavement is too narrow, then as an alternative, it may be possible to plant a tree within the carriageway. This would require around half a car parking space and is generally only possible in quieter residential streets. Because this is a new location, consultation will be required. We would check for below ground services before planting. Because this is a new tree going in the highway, approval would be required under the council's Quality Assurance process. The cost per tree is £295 + the cost of a tree pit which is due to be confirmed following a current investigation of construction methods. Additional charges apply for project management fees. Where funds for tree planting come from section 106 payments made by developers, each payment includes a £393 contribution for maintenance per tree planted.

Add: images showing tree planted within the carriageway

Add: diagram of standard tree pits