

**REPORT TO THE HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES  
COMMITTEE, THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

**PROCESS FOR THE RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS WITH  
TREES**

*The purpose of this report is to seek the agreement of the Housing and Community Services Committee regarding the principle of the establishment of an ad hoc meeting of interested parties to resolve problems with trees. [Meeting to comprise Chair of Housing and Community Services, Facilities and Development Manager, local member(s)]. The result of the deliberations to be reported to the committee for ratification.*

*The process would not include the problem of high hedges as this is covered by The Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (Commencement No5)(England)*

*Trees having a Tree Preservation Order will remain the responsibility of the Development Control Committee*

**Protocol for the Resolution of Problems with Trees**

- Determine the ownership of the tree. (District or County Council, developers etc)  
If the tree is the responsibility of South Derbyshire District Council, the process may be pursued.
- Local member(s) to have initial discussions with Facilities and Development Manager
  - Agree that a problem exists. (If no agreement reached, a formal request for a meeting of the interested parties to be lodged by the local member(s) with the Chair of the Housing and Community Services Committee)
  - If the existence of a problem is recognised, agree on action and timescale to resolve the problem (prune, pollard, fell)
  - If a meeting of the interested parties is convened, all aspects of the subject are to be discussed including representation from residents, evidence from the Tree Specialist etc.
- The interested parties to consider: -
  - Condition of the tree
  - Amenity value of the tree
  - Damage caused by roots or branches
  - Loss of amenity due to overbearing branches etc
- Decide on a course of action to be recommended to the Housing and Community Services Committee. (No action, prune or fell)

South Derbyshire District Council to ensure that sufficient finance is allocated to enable any pruning, felling etc required to be undertaken.

Councillor David Shepherd