

Keelby Parish Council

General Update 3 – September 2024

Introduction

Keelby Parish Council is often asked about the maintenance of trees and hedges in the village, and like a lot of things we deal with, ownership and responsibilities can sometimes be complex.

This update is aimed at shedding some light on who's responsible for what.

Residential Hedges

The responsibility for residential hedges is clear, and determined by the Land Registry, and responsibilities are usually set out in deeds to the property. Where residential hedges (or trees) are impeding on path or public thoroughfares, we ask residents to bring these to the attention of the Parish Council and we will write to the homeowner and ask them politely to address the situation. Where this doesn't work, Lincolnshire County Council can be asked to carry out the work and they will in-turn invoice the resident for the associated costs; but it is VERY rare that we have to do this, and generally a letter from the Parish Council is met with cooperation and understanding.

Community Trees

Many trees in the village are 'community trees' and the maintenance of these are the responsibility of the Parish Council; a good example of these are the trees on the village green. The Council's Village Handy Person will maintain these as necessary.

Update 3 Focus:

Trees and
Hedges

The Parish Council
can be contacted via:

Janet Milson, Clerk
to Keelby Parish
Council

[clerk@keelbyparish
council.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@keelbyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Highway Trees

A lot of trees that line the highways in the village are the responsibility of Lincolnshire County Council. Where issues are noted (e.g. crowns on trees lining Yarborough Rd were low and catching passing vehicles), the Parish Council will liaise with LCC to address the matters. Sometimes such tree cause damage to paths and where this is the case, we would liaise with WLDC to discuss the matter with LCC who would ultimately be responsible for repairs.

Tree Prevention Orders (TPO)

In accordance with Town and County Planning legislation, some trees can be subject to a TPO. A Tree Preservation Order is an order made by a local planning authority (WLDC in our case) to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of amenity. A TPO prohibits the:

- cutting down
- topping
- lopping
- uprooting
- willful damage
- willful destruction

of trees without the local planning authority's written consent. If consent is given, it can be subject to conditions which have to be followed. In the Secretary of State's view, cutting roots is also a prohibited activity and requires the authority's consent.

If residents report issues associated with a tree that has a TPO, the Parish Council will need to request whoever is responsible for the tree (typically LCC in the village) to request permission to carry out the work from WLDC as the local planning authority. Where TPO tree impact on utility services (e.g. Telephone lines), the service provider would need to contact WLDC to seek permission to carry out the work.

The Parish Council can be contacted via: Janet Milson, Clerk to Keelby Parish Council: clerk@keelbyparishcouncil.gov.uk