

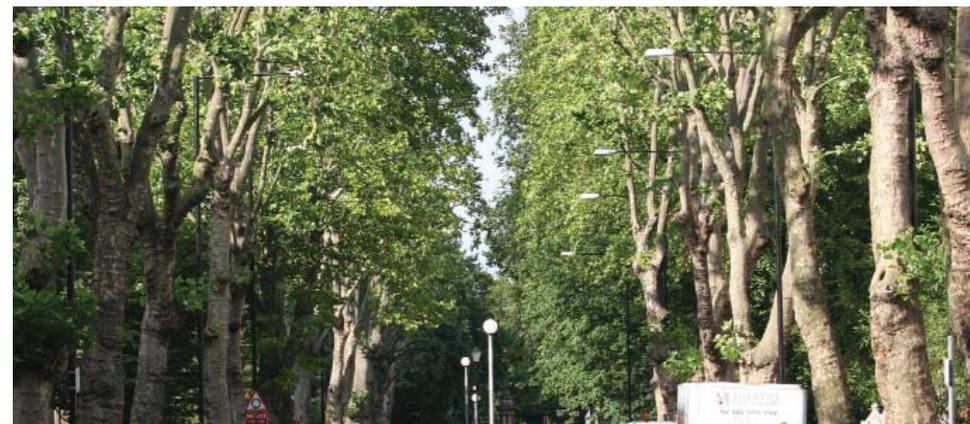
Trees



Trees

This guide is one of a series of leaflets that will provide information and advice on the services offered by the Directorate of Development and Renewal. In addition the Directorate offers a wide range of other services from Building Control, Access to Employment, Inward Investment and Major Projects including Transport Infrastructure. Housing services are also now part of Development and Renewal. For an introduction to these services please access the Council's website (address on back of leaflet). This guide covers the following:

1. Importance of trees.
2. Trees in Conservation Areas.
3. Tree Preservation Orders.
4. Unauthorised works to trees.
5. New developments.
6. Further information.



1. Importance of Trees

Trees play an essential role within the landscape of the Borough and the Council seeks to protect trees and other plantings where they make an important contribution to the environment. Trees are vital to the quality of our lives for a number of reasons:

- Contribute to making Tower Hamlets a more attractive place in which to live and work.
- Are a familiar and cherished feature of many parts of the Borough.
- Provide a valuable habitat for wildlife.
- Can act as a barrier to noise.
- Produce oxygen, trap dust in their leaves and absorb carbon dioxide and other pollutants.
- Offer shade, shelter and screening.
- Play a role in mitigating and providing relief to the densely built up areas of the Borough.

Because trees are so important to our environment, the Council have the power to protect trees in Conservation Areas and to make Tree Preservation Orders. This guide sets out more details of these areas.

2. Trees in Conservation Areas

Trees are often integral to the character of the Borough's many Conservation Areas, especially those visible from public areas. The law requires that anyone planning to cut down or carry out work on a tree in a Conservation Area must give the Council six weeks notice of their intention to do so. This notice must be made in writing, giving details of the tree species, its location, and the nature of the work to be carried out. Ideally such notification should be made on forms available from the Council.

3. Tree Preservation Orders

A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) often protects individual trees or groups of trees, which make a particularly important contribution to the public amenity of an area. This may be because of their contribution to the landscape, their intrinsic beauty, their scarcity, relationship to a Listed Building, or simply because they screen an eyesore or a forthcoming new development. To justify a TPO, the trees should usually be visible from a public place.

Approval from the Council is required for felling or pruning trees subject to a TPO. Again application forms are available from the Council with a similar level of detail required as that for works to a tree in a Conservation Area. Such an application is considered bearing in mind the amenity value of the tree, balanced against reasons put forward in the application for the work.

A key role of the Council is the designation of Tree Preservation Orders following an assessment of their suitability.



4. Unauthorised Works to Trees

Carrying out works to trees in a Conservation Area or trees subject to a TPO without the necessary approval can be a criminal offence and could lead to prosecution. There are some exceptions—for example when a tree is dead, dying or dangerous and action needs to be taken for safety reasons. However, in such cases the matter must be discussed with the Council prior to the works being carried out.



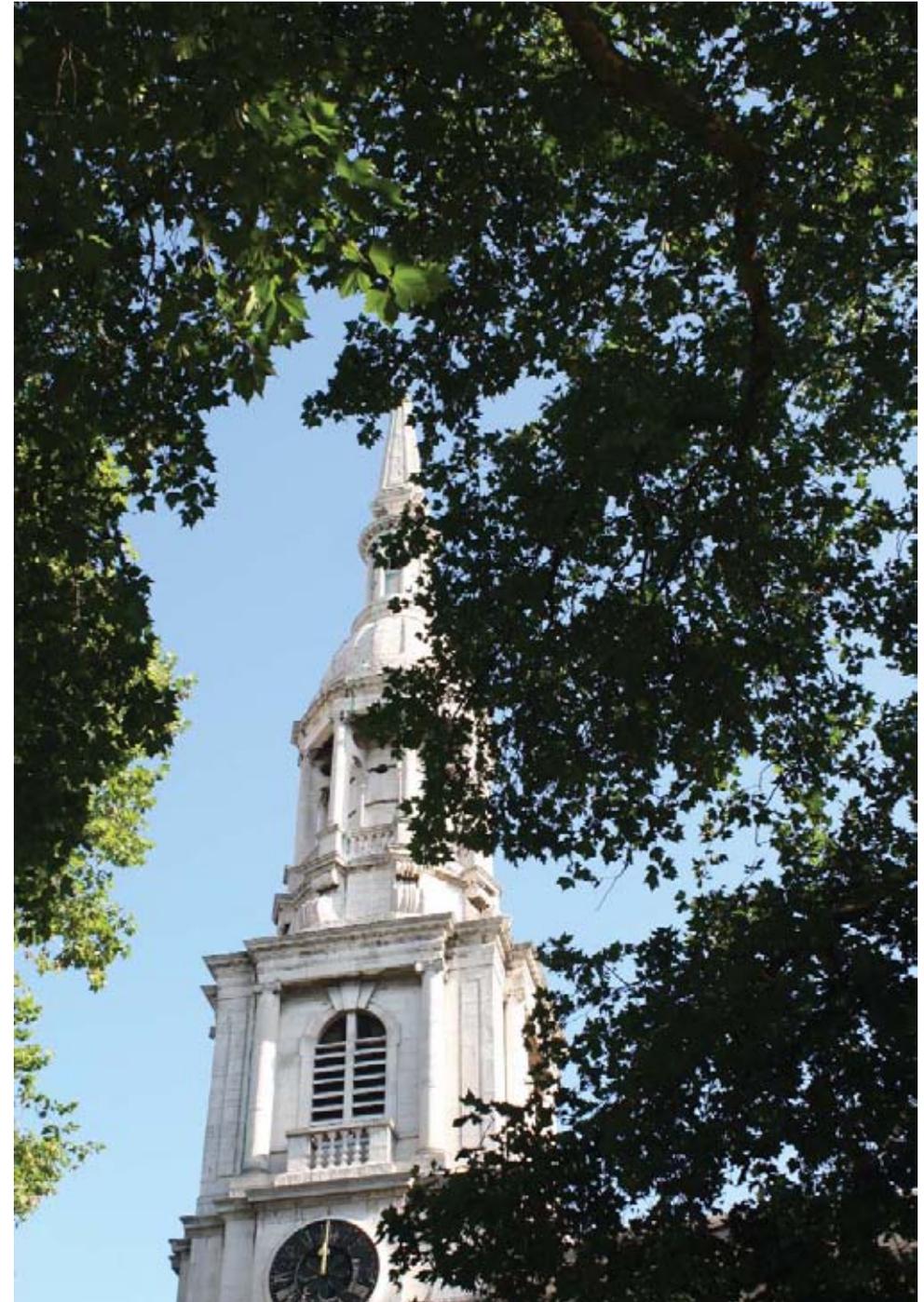
5. New Developments

As set out above, the Borough's existing stock of trees can greatly improve the life of local residents. As such, the Council expects new development proposals to include tree-planting schemes where possible. Such schemes could include off site planting to achieve similar benefits. It is important that thought is given to the choice of species of plants and trees to ensure that they are appropriate to their location, for example on grounds of appearance or being resistant to pollution and vandalism.

The selection of new trees and planting should be based on the purpose of the tree; its ultimate height and spread above and below the ground in relation to adjacent buildings; services and other plants; the climate of the area and microclimate of the area and the type of soil and pH of that area. The Council will normally seek trees which are native to the British Isles. More details are also set out in the Council's BioDiversity Action Plan.

Where trees are lost as a result of proposed development, the Council will expect to see their replacement with new trees offering a similar value. In all new development proposals it is important that consideration is given to tree planting at an early stage so that it can be incorporated in the design.

The Council encourage pre-application discussions and can offer guidance to maintain existing trees and ensure new tree planting proposals are appropriate and sensitive to their surroundings.



For translation phone:



Albanian	Për përkthim, telefono:	Lithuanian	Vertimui, skambinkite:
Amharic	ለባክህ እንዲተረጎምልህ ብትሻ ይህን ስልክ ደውል	Malayalam	പരിഭാഷക്കായി വിളിക്കുക
Arabic	:للترجمة ، اتصل:	Polish	Po tłumaczenie, zadzwoń pod:
Bengali/Sylheti	অনুবাদের জন্য টেলিফোন করুন :	Portuguese	Para tradução, telefone:
Chinese	如欲索取翻譯，請致電：	Punjabi	ਤਰਜਮੇ ਲਈ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ:
Croatian/Serbian	Za prijevod, nazovite:	Russian	Для перевода, позвоните под номер:
Czech	Pro překlad volejte:	Somali	Wixii turjumid ah, wac:
Farsi	:برای ترجمه با تلفن زیر تماس بگیرید:	Spanish	Para traducción, telefonee:
French	Pour obtenir une traduction, veuillez appeler :	Swahili	Piga namba hii ili upate makaratasi yaliyotafsiriwa:
Greek	Για μετάφραση, τηλεφωνήστε	Turkish	Tercüme İçin, Telefon
Gujarati	તરજુમા માટે ફોન કરો:	Twi	Se won te brofo na wo pe mboa, fre me
Hindi	अनुवाद के लिए फोन करें:	Urdu	:ترجمے کیلئے فون کریں:
Japanese	翻訳に関する電話は :	Vietnamese	Muốn bản phiên dịch, gọi số:
Kurdish	:تەلیفون بو تە رجومه:	Yoruba	Fun itumo ede, e pewa si eṛo-ibanisṛo yi:

020 7364 5009

Also for large print, audio or braille

6. Further Information

The Council encourages and welcomes pre-application discussions with the community and businesses and can provide further detailed guidance by contacting 020 7364 5009.

More details about this area is available on the Council's website at:
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/./data/environment/data/trees.cfm
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/./data/planning/data/general-advice/data/protected-trees.cfm

Applications forms for carrying out works to protected trees can be downloaded at:
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/planning/downloads/pdfs/dc-app06.pdf

Alternatively, you may wish to visit the Council's website
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk for further general information.



2005-2006
Promoting Racial Equality
Getting Closer to Communities
2004-2005
Supporting Social Care Workers
2003-2004
Community Cohesion



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