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Tree management

Increasingly, an area of concern for Councils is trees for which they are responsible. The following are all key areas to bear in mind when considering the risks within your council.

All contracts that ask the contractor to provide information or advice should require them to hold suitable Professional Indemnity (PI) insurance. If something goes wrong, the council's insurer may ask for proof of the contractor's PI and, if not in place, then the claim will sit solely on the Council's insurance.

- All tree inspections should be documented and kept on the council's files.
- The council should review the inspection reports carefully. All advice given by professionals should be implemented (whether the council agrees with it or not) and, if something is considered low risk, then this should be categorised as a maintenance issue and a plan put in place to ensure that is carried out. If the council is unsure of time periods then they should speak to the inspector, in this case the arborist.
- If the report states a review date then this date must be adhered to.
- A risk assessment should be in place for tree inspections. These should be carried out by an arborist, not a tree surgeon, unless they have the correct qualifications.
- Interim annual inspections should be considered by a person who understands the trees in your area; this can be a tree warden, volunteer or professional person. The inspection should be noted in writing and any work carried out in a timely fashion.
- Hazardous trees are classified as those trees near the public highway, playgrounds and any other open spaces where people may gather or walk – it is important that these areas are inspected annually at a minimum and following periods of adverse weather conditions.

The arborist website www.trees.org.uk provides information and advice regarding the management of trees and you can also 'search' for qualified and registered arborists and tree surgeons in your area.

The opinions and views expressed in the above articles are those of the author only and are for guidance purposes only. The authors disclaim any liability for reliance upon those opinions and would encourage readers to rely upon more than one source before making a decision based on the information.

Banking and payments

Health & Safety: risk assessment

Clerk Sandgate Parish Council

From: David Sephton <invictaarb@icloud.com>
Sent: 28 August 2020 12:22
To: Clerk Sandgate Parish Council
Subject: Tree inspection fee proposal

Categories: Simon

Dear Simon,

Further to our recent telephone conversation, I can confirm that my fee to undertake the health and safety tree inspections on behalf of Sandgate Parish Council will be £475.00.

The inspections at Sandgate Recreation Ground and Fremantle Road Recreation Ground will be undertaken on a 'negative' basis; that is to say that all trees within the two sites will be inspected from ground level, with only those displaying significant structural or physiological defects recorded in a report for the site with recommendations made for their management and their locations displayed on a corresponding plan along with timescales within which to undertake the work.

I carry full professional indemnity insurance cover to the value of £2 million and public liability insurance cover to £1 million, copies of which can be provided upon request.

I would be happy to discuss in more detail in person or over the phone if necessary.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

David.

Mr David Sephton
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