

Wreningham Parish Council Tree and Hedge Policy

Introduction

The Parish Council (PC) have agreed that following policy should be applied whenever considering planning applications affecting the Parish.

Background

The Parish Plan made it quite clear that a large proportion of parishioners value the rural and green environment of Wreningham, in particular, the green spaces, the hedges and the trees. Many of Wreningham's hedges are "ancient" with mixed variety species. The Hedgerow Regulations put the onus of hedgerow protection on the District Council. The planning process ensures the PC is invited to comment on planning applications placed with South Norfolk District Council. The PC will highlight issues arising from the removal, replacement or introduction of hedges.

Planning applications have been received in which trees and hedges have been suggested which are at variance to the general appearance of the parish.

Policy

Any decision affecting trees and/or hedges will not create a precedent; each case will be considered on its merits.

Trees should not be removed without a rational being submitted and approved by the PC. New planting should be of native species only and due consideration given to position.

Hedges should not be removed without a rational being submitted and approved by the PC. Hedge planting should be appropriate to location and be "mixed". A "mixed" hedge comprises: Hawthorn, Blackthorn (but deleted where suckering is likely to cause issues), Field Maple, Hazel, Dogwood, Spindle, Hornbeam, Crab Apple. Unless otherwise requested, all new hedging will be supplied with Oak and Ash (Ash currently on hold) trees set at 10 metre intervals.

Implementation

The Wreningham Tree Warden is appointed by the PC and reports regularly on the status of trees and hedges within the Parish. When planning applications the Tree Warden will advise the PC according to this policy.

The PC will consider this advice and include such comment as is necessary in its response to planning applications to the District Council.