



# Ross-on-Wye Town Council

## Tree Planting and Donation Policy

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### INTRODUCTION

One way to remember the life of a friend or loved one is through the arrangement of a longstanding tribute, a reminder that they are not forgotten and the donation of a tree is often considered on these occasions.

Donating a tree may also be considered to commemorate an anniversary or an historical event.

Ross-on-Wye Town Council is currently seeking offers of sponsorship for tree planting.

### 1. Types and size of trees suitable for donating

Ross-on-Wye sits within a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and also is a Site of Special Scientific Interest as well as being within a Conservation Area. Many areas of the town's open space sit on the edge of the beautiful River Wye which is sometimes prone to flooding and therefore careful consideration must be given to the species and location of the trees that we plant to ensure that they are suitable for the specified location.

The Council can provide a standard tree that has a 12-14 cm stem circumference at 1m height from the ground, generally this provides a tree which is between 3.6m – 4.5m in overall height, depending upon species and cultivar. The cost of a tree varies depending on its size and type, but on average would cost around £120 for a planted tree with appropriate staking and planting compost.

The Council will arrange sourcing of and planting of the trees that are selected. Trees should require minimum management (for example, trees located next to footpaths/highways would be of a more upright form, whereas trees planted on a floodplain would be selected to thrive in conditions that are difficult for many species). The choice of tree species and planting locations available may be discussed with the donor should they wish.

Alternatively, a donor may contact a reputable nursery or garden centre and pay and arrange for them to plant a tree. In this case, full approval must be obtained from the Council of the species, size and location of the tree prior to planting.

### 2. Location of donated trees

The location of the tree will very much depend on the soil conditions, exposure to prevailing winds, nearby water courses, proximity to buildings, underground services, road layout, etc. All trees that are planted will receive an appropriate level of management required to produce a well-balanced, mature specimen in time. If more than one tree is being donated, the planting will be carried out in such a manner that trees are given adequate space to develop independently. This may result in the planting being spread across several locations should insufficient room be available at a given site.

Undoubtedly over the years Ross-on-Wye has lost many of its trees due to development. Tree planting will greatly improve the appearance of the area and restore some of the trees that have already been lost as well as encourage more wildlife and support biodiversity and we see this initiative, along with the Council's policy of protecting trees wherever possible as a way of redressing this situation.

### **3. On-going maintenance donated trees**

It will be necessary, especially in the first year of planting, for donated trees to be kept well-watered. This initial task will be the responsibility of the person(s) donating the tree(s) unless alternative arrangements have been made.

The checking and subsequent removal of tree stakes and ties required for the establishment of the young tree and any formative pruning will be carried out by the council's staff or by a suitably qualified contractor appointed by the Council.

Donated trees will be the responsibility of the Town Council for the lifetime of the tree and will be included in the Town Council's Tree Condition Survey and Risk Management Plan. If a tree fails, for whatever reason, it will be removed or remedial works carried out as appropriate. In such situations the Council would aim to contact the donor and update wherever possible. It should be noted the Town Council will not replace trees which fail, however the opportunity to donate a replacement tree will wherever possible be offered to the original donor.

### **4. Plaques and inscriptions**

Trees may be dedicated with an engraved plaque, at the expense of the donor. If the dedication plaque becomes vandalised or goes missing it will be the responsibility of the donor to make good or replace. Prior to the erection of a dedication plaque, the size, shape and type of plaque and wording used, must be approved by the Town Council to ensure its suitability for the location.

### **5. Delivery and planting**

Trees will be planted by the Town Council's grounds staff at locations agreed by all parties. If a metal tree guard is required, then this cost will be in addition to the original price to supply and plant the tree. The cost of tree guards may vary in price but will only be fitted in locations requiring this level of protection and this cost will be agreed prior to any planting agreement.

### **6. How to register for tree donation**

Please make applications in writing to;

The Town Clerk  
Ross-on-Wye Town Council  
The Corn Exchange  
High Street  
Ross-on-Wye  
HR9 5HL

*Reviewed by the Amenities Committee, July 2018*