

Tree Management Policy – BDL Board

Overview

The Brentford Dock Tree Management policy seeks over the short, medium and long term to keep the green nature of the estate, while: retaining views from properties, ensuring our stock of trees can be managed within a reasonably sized annual budget, reducing the amount of damage to the fabric of the estate being caused by trees, and dealing with overcrowding of specimens.

Background

When the Dock was built trees and shrubs were planted to enhance and soften the environment. As a result we have a beautiful estate with well over 300 trees. Many trees were double planted allowing for some natural selection – survival of the fittest.

In the 40+ years since the Estate was built some trees have self seeded and many of the double planted trees did not die or have not been thinned out. All have grown significantly larger, despite pollarding. As a result some have outgrown their suitability for their position causing damage to buildings and pavements and in some cases contributing to safety issues. On the positive side we have an excellent tree base from which we can further develop our green environment, using modern tree management knowledge to advise us on the most suitable, slow growing trees to plant for best appearance and impact.

Because trees take time to establish, any changes we make need to be planned in advance over a number of years to avoid abrupt changes and ensure we maintain the continuing beauty across the whole of our green estate.

Residents' views will be considered through Block meetings, surveys and other communications, with the final decisions made by the BDL Board.

Short term

In the short term we will continue to remove those trees that are dead, dying or damaging the fabric of the estate.

We will review those trees that have been identified by our arboriculture specialists for pollarding/cutting back and instead consider removing them where:

- they are so close to properties or street lights that cutting back only relieves the problem of light restriction, banging on windows/balconies for a short period,
- thin out groups of trees where they are overcrowded,
- continue maintenance of all other trees

Medium to longer term

In the medium to longer term we will:

- focus on improving the entrance to the Dock,
- clear self seeded trees across the estate, taking care not to denude any one area,
- consider replacing each tree that is felled, however not all trees will be replaced (see next bullet)
- have a programme of replanting where it is appropriate, taking care to avoid planting near buildings and choosing slow growing, ornamental trees which enhance views rather than restrict them
- shape vistas and curves for long term impact across the estate.