

# CIVIC AMENITIES COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**REPORT OF:** Events, Projects and Tourism Officer

**SUBJECT:** Tree Charter

## **PART I**

### **Recommendation:**

**To consider whether officers should investigate actions that could be taken in response to the principles of the Tree Charter.**

## **1. BACKGROUND**

The call for a Tree Charter was initiated in 2015 by the Woodland Trust in response to the crisis facing trees and woods in the UK. Before the launch of the charter, there was no clear, unifying statement about the rights of people in the UK to the benefits of trees, woods and forests. The Tree Charter was launched at Lincoln Castle on 6th November 2017. It sets out the principles for a society in which people and trees can stand stronger together. The National Association of Local Council has stated that local (town and parish) councils have a key part to play in protecting trees and woodland and believes they can do this by embedding the ten principles from the Tree Charter into their everyday practice.

The ten principles are:

- Sustain landscapes rich in wildlife
- Plant for the future
- Celebrate the power of trees to inspire
- Grow forests of opportunity and innovation
- Protect irreplaceable trees and woods
- Plan greener local landscapes
- Recover health, hope and wellbeing with the help of trees
- Make trees accessible to all
- Combat the threats to our habitats

## DAWLISH TOWN COUNCIL

- Strengthen our landscapes with trees.

Details on the Tree Charter are given at: <https://treecharter.uk/> and a copy of the principles is attached to this report. More in depth information and a resource kit is available on the nalc.gov.uk website at: <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/treecharter>.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

The recommendation is to consider whether officers should investigate actions that could be taken in response to the principles of the Tree Charter. These would be presented to a future meeting of the committee for consideration to then make possible recommendations to the full Town Council.

Angie Weatherhead  
Events, Projects & Tourism Officer



### Plan greener local landscapes

The trees that touch us most are those that live among us, along our street, in the local park, beside our school or place of work. Like us, they grow and change, need space to breathe and support to thrive. Trees give places their distinctive character. Local community networks have a vital role to play in caring for woods and trees. Trees provide long-lasting good, so well-informed planning reaps long-term rewards. Take guidance on planting, felling and replanting from skilled professionals. Good landscapes of the future depend on care for trees today.



### Recover health, hope and wellbeing with the help of trees

Peace grows quietly in tree-lined places, where bees, fresh scents and birdsong revive our jaded senses. Sprays of greenery ensure cleaner air and clearer minds, and fitter bodies, more inclined to take a walk or meet a friend. Spirits lift and stress recedes when we stroll through healing glades. Parks and woodlands keep us well and help to quell fears of illness, ageing, loss – we breathe more freely under trees. Healthcare and tree-care go hand in hand: harness the therapeutic power of trees.



### Make trees accessible to all

Trees offer shared experience to every age, religion and race. In woods people can work together, sharing experiences and learning from each other and their natural surroundings. Those who no longer move with ease can still find pleasure among the trees. Cheerful voices ring through leaves, from makeshift pitches and games of make-believe. There should be room for us all beneath spreading canopies.



### Combat the threats to our habitats

Pests, diseases and climate change pose serious threats to our precious trees. Enlightened management of woods will help ensure their future health: planting strong seeds and saplings, selecting species suited to the site, keeping forests mixed in age and kind, regular thinning, combatting invasive plants, and controlling infections and pests at the earliest sign.



### Strengthen our landscapes with trees

From roots that bind and enrich the soil to leaves that shade and shelter, from locking carbon into timber and purifying air and water, trees make our landscapes better. Rising water swells and floods, so strengthen riverbanks with roots. Bare hills need trees to keep the soil stable, to slow the flow of nature's deluge, to shelter sheep or shade the cattle. The right tree in the right place earns its keep again and again. As farmers and landowners benefit from woods, the country will be strengthened in the years ahead.



*These principles were shaped by more than 60,000 stories from people across the UK explaining how trees and woods enhance their lives. The wording was crafted by author Fiona Stafford, guided by a steering group of more than 70 cross-sector organisations led by the Woodland Trust who collaborated to define and launch the Charter for Trees, Woods and People in 2017.*

*For background to the Tree Charter project and for guidance on how to contribute to delivering the principles of the charter visit [treecharter.uk](http://treecharter.uk)*