



Bottesford Parish Tree Charter 2025

The UK is one of the least wooded countries in Europe; a rich diversity of trees, hedges and woodlands sustain landscapes rich in wildlife, and can bring a wide range of environmental and health benefits to communities.

Tree Charter Principles

1. **Preserve** – encourage landowners to keep existing trees and hedgerows.
2. **Planning** – work with the Local Planning Authority to ensure that new developments retain existing trees and hedgerows where possible and, where replacement trees are proposed, that these are actually planted and maintained. When new developments are planned these should be balanced with green infrastructure as the inclusion of trees can be a natural solution to drainage, cooling and air quality. Proposed site plans should ensure that there is adequate space for trees to grow to maturity without harm to nearby buildings.
3. **Protect** – acknowledging that whilst many mature trees, such as ash, are reaching the end of their lives, they should be protected and not taken down prematurely. Where trees are taken down replacement trees should be planted. Trees of high ‘amenity’ or ‘nature conservation value’ should be identified and protected with Tree Preservation Orders where necessary.
4. **Planting** – liaise with agencies/landowners involved in tree and hedgerow planting to plan and effect environmentally and economically sustainable planting schemes with the future needs of both parishioners and wildlife in mind. Trees should be sourced and grown in the UK to prevent importing pests and diseases.
5. **Participation** – promote the benefits of trees both for people and for wildlife and aim to secure as much public involvement in securing the Tree Charter objectives.

Funding and Resources

- The Woodland Trust has various schemes and grants available both to community groups through their **Free Trees for Schools and Communities** scheme and to local landowners through their **MOREwoods** scheme. Information on both schemes as well many other resources can be found on their website:
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
- The Tree Council also has a wealth of information and resources on their website:
www.treecouncil.org.uk
- Liaison with LCC regarding advice and resources. LCC also has a free tree replacement scheme to replace any failed trees on Parish Council land as well information sessions such as tree planting workshops.
- Bottesford Parish Council includes funding for the Tree Charter, tree maintenance and inspections in their annual budget.

Preservation or Replacement of Existing/New Trees

- List trees in the Parish with Tree Preservation Orders and identify those that may require them.
- Ensure reminder letters are sent to ensure replacement trees are planted where required in planning applications.
- Protect newly planted saplings with tree guards and suitable stakes to ensure the best chance of survival.
- Monitor existing trees on public land and where necessary ensure remedial work is completed either by the Parish Council or LCC.



Involving the Local Community

- Liaise with local landowners/community groups to ensure that they are aware of grant schemes available to them.
- Publicise the Tree Charter and raise awareness of the considerable benefits of trees with articles and pictures about successful tree planting in the Parish Council Newsletter and on the PC website.
- Liaise with local developers regarding the green infrastructure of their developments and ensuring that they are aware of the Tree Charter.

The Tree Charter during 2024/2025:

- **Two replacement trees were ordered for the green space at Keel Drive, to be planted in March 2025**
- **10 oak saplings were planted at Acrelands, Orston Lane by kind permission of Mr Andy Norris.**
- **Woodland planting in the shape of Lancaster and Dakota wings was planted in December 2024 on land at Normanton Lane near the Natural Burial Ground by kind permission of local landowner Mr James Goodson with assistance from the Woodland Trust MOREwoods scheme.**
- **Liaison with Mr Norris re planting the earth bund near the Football Ground when it is ready.**
- **Two silver birches to be planted during March 2025 in the corner of the VC Hall playing field.**
- **Send an annual report on Tree Charter achievements to Mr Andy Goodall, Tree & Woodlands Manager, LCC**