

Appendix 2

Organisation	Comments	Response
Friends of North Lodge Park	Overall feedback positive with no concerns.	
Friends of South Park	Overall feedback positive with no concerns.	
Middleton St George Parish Council	Overall feedback positive with no concerns.	
Durham Wildlife Trust	<p>Thank you for providing Durham Wildlife Trust with the opportunity to comment on the Tree and Woodland Strategy 2010-2015. It is gratifying to see the general presumption within the strategy against the removal of trees and the acknowledgement that trees, particularly native species, provide an important wildlife resource. As the strategy states, the presence of bats is an issue that must be given proper consideration when planning management work. It would be beneficial if the strategy had further information on the features that are likely to indicate if a tree has the potential to support a bat roost and the steps that should be taken by the public or contractors to ensure that bats are not killed, injured or disturbed during tree management works. Durham Wildlife Trust would also like to see recognition within the strategy of the high biodiversity value of veteran trees, and a recommendation that special measures should be taken to retain veteran trees due to their significant contribution to the natural environment and cultural heritage of Darlington. The Durham Biodiversity Partnership, of which Darlington Borough Council is a member, is currently running a veteran tree project and the officer employed is available to provide information and training on how to survey veteran trees so that Council officers are able to assess the number and location of veteran trees across the Borough. The inclusion within the strategy of a map of the location of known veteran trees would also be beneficial.</p>	<p>The Countryside Team are working closely with Durham Wildlife Trust designing walks to enable the public to view the range of veteran trees in the Borough. Any walks with maps and locations can be added to the strategy as it is reviewed annually.</p> <p>With regard to bat roosts, the Tree Team work closely with the Council's Countryside Team who assist with any bat issues as required.</p>

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Zurich Municipal	A very impressive document and there are no issues as far as we are concerned.	
Dave Preston	Having read the strategy I have two thoughts; first as an inspector of the CCTV system, I am aware that in a number of areas throughout the leaf life of the tree, the system is seriously compromised. In the case of the camera covering Tommy Crooks Park, the ability of the camera to spot vehicles dumping waste along Salters Lane South bridle path, the parking of vehicles where drug offences take place and the dumping of litter by long distance wagons parked up in front of the bridle path itself is totally prohibited. With this in mind, surely the pruning of such trees should be an imperative. Plus how have you allowed for the current upheaval in Council funding and future possible changes to Government policies.	<p>Sympathetic pruning is carried out to assist site lines for CCTV in many areas, however it is not Council policy to remove or unnecessarily prune trees for the benefit of CCTV.</p> <p>With regard to the reduction in funding, the Council has a duty to maintain trees in safe conditions regardless of available funding and will continue to do so.</p>
Sadberge Parish Council	Here are Sadberge Parish Council's comments on the draft Tree and Woodland Strategy. Overall, this is a sensible strategy. Trees are an important part of our environment. On page 8, you say that "we have a policy only to remove trees that are dead, diseased, dangerous or can be proven to be linked to damage caused to buildings" and policy item 7 on the same page says "we will resist the removal of trees unless there are sound arboricultural or other reasons; e.g. disease or structural damage." It would be sensible to add an option to remove trees that are inappropriate for their locations on the condition that they are replaced by more appropriate species. As it stands, the policy is inflexible and would prevent you from removing a healthy tree even if it was very obviously unsuitable for its location. As you mention at the bottom of page 3 of the draft strategy, residents' complaints are sometimes a result of "inappropriate species selection in the past". Removing the inappropriate trees and replacing them with more appropriate species would seem to be a sensible solution, and this should not be ruled out in the Tree and Woodland Strategy.	<p>The whole scale removal of inappropriate trees in certain locations would be devastating to the town's aesthetic appearance and the cost of removal and planting would be unacceptable. However the Council will continue to manage the existing tree stock and maintain a mature tree cover and when replacing trees will do so with a more appropriate species.</p> <p>Within the context of the strategy, any tree not on Council land is classed as privately owned. In this context, the trees owned by Sadberge Parish Council would be considered private. As has been the case in the past, the Council where possible will support Parish Councils within the Borough providing advice on how to manage and maintain their tree stock.</p>

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Sadberge Parish Council (continued)	<p>You categorise trees owned by Darlington Borough Council as street trees, trees in woodland, trees in parks and open spaces, trees in disused churchyards, and cemeteries and trees in Council housing areas. How do you categorise trees in locations like Hampass (between Town Farm Field and St Andrew’s Church in Sadberge)? Do they count as ‘trees in parks and open spaces? The description on page 12 seems more relevant to trees resulting from planned planting in formal parks rather than, for example, the trees that have grown up along the eastern edge of Hampass. Is there a need for another category?</p> <p>On page 15 you refer to “trees on private land” when we think that you mean trees on land not owned by Darlington Borough Council.” Please bear in mind that Darlington Borough Council is not the only council in Darlington. Land owned by Parish Councils is not private land, but we think that you intend trees of Parish Council land to be included in your ‘trees on private land’ section on pages 15 – 18.</p> <p>In the policy item 50 on page 18, you say that “we will encourage all major tree-owing organisations to adopt best practice in the care of their trees”. It might be worth adding something specific about how you will help and support Parish Councils to care for their trees. Parish Councils often own significant numbers of trees but have limited resources and expertise. We recognise – and appreciate – the help and support that Darlington Borough Council’s arboricultural staff have given to Sadberge Parish Council in the past and we hope that that will continue into the future. It would be helpful if that could be included in the Tree and Woodland Strategy.</p>	