

Find out how tree wardens can make a difference in your parish.

Tree wardens are volunteers appointed by their parish council to:

- be a contact and support for all things tree related in their local area;
- protect trees by reporting on early signs of pests, disease and vandalism;
- gather information, survey and record information about trees important for wildlife or heritage in their parish;
- help look out for opportunities to plant more trees in the local community, enhancing the environment for parishioners;
- help find the money to fund local tree planting projects, e.g. the Tree Council have grants only available to tree wardens;
- get involved in campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of trees.



Stepping Stones* would be expected to support parish councils by:

- delivering support, training and guidance for tree wardens at a local level;
- providing at least 2 training courses and one social event per year;
- and provide a source of funding for community and private landowner projects.

* The local network coordinator for all tree wardens in the county based at Leicestershire County Council.

** Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment 2005.

Trees are important in your parish because they:

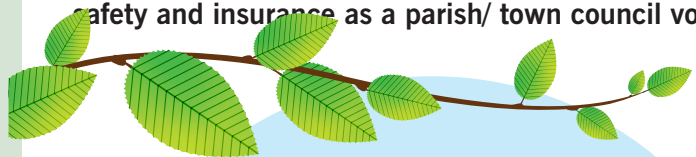
- provide a habitat for wildlife;
- provide shade and shelter for people;
- can muffle sound effectively;
- are appreciated by local people for their beauty and the sense of wellbeing they bring;
- and can increase the property value of homes by up to 15% or more.**



The Tree Council (lead organisation for the National Tree Warden Scheme) recognised the value of Leicestershire's tree wardens back in 1981 and made the tree warden scheme a national initiative.

The parish/ town council would be expected to support their tree wardens by:

- including them in discussions about tree matters;
- inviting them to attend parish/town council meetings and report any tree related matters;
- support them with any necessary resources needed to carry out their volunteering (within reason);
- and ensure that they are covered for health and safety and insurance as a parish/ town council volunteer.



For more information about the tree warden scheme and how it could benefit your parish/town council: Contact the

Stepping Stones Project
at **Leicestershire County Council**
on **0116 3057264 / 0116 3057221**
or email **steppingstones@leics.gov.uk**