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.

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.

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.


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