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**

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 two training courses and one social event per year;
- and provide a source of funding for community and private landowner projects.

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 1987 and launched the Tree Warden Scheme as 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 or email steppingstones@leics.gov.uk

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

** Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment 2005