



Town Clerk: Caroline Leet

EDENBRIDGE
TOWN COUNCIL

Vegetation Management and Bonfire Policy

Adopted by Open Spaces Committee on 15 September 2025

To be read as part of the Council's environmental management policies

This policy sets out Edenbridge Town Council's approach to managing green waste and vegetation across its land, including the use of bonfires. It aims to ensure that vegetation is managed safely, efficiently, and with regard to environmental impact, public health, and community wellbeing.

This policy applies to all council-managed open spaces, including but not limited to:

- Mowshurst Fields
- Millennium Wood
- Allotments
- Other recreational and amenity lands
- Vegetation management shall be carried out in a manner that promotes biodiversity, reduces fire risk, and upholds the visual and functional quality of council-owned land.
- Waste arising from grounds maintenance (e.g., hedge cuttings, dead wood, fly-tipped green waste) must be dealt with promptly to avoid safety and vandalism risks.
- The Council aims to reduce reliance on bonfires and consider alternative, sustainable waste-disposal methods where feasible.

4.2. **Conditions** Bonfires must:

- 4.3. **Staff Responsibilities** **Frequency and Monitoring** Bonfires generally take place between two to four times per month. However, there may be periods—particularly in winter or following major clearance work—when bonfires occur more frequently, including daily over several weeks.
- Records of each bonfire (date, location, reason, and team present) shall be kept.
 - Public complaints will be logged and considered in ongoing policy review.

6. **D7 Exemption Compliance** **Alternatives and Environmental Considerations** The Council encourages and continues to explore:

- Chipping and mulching for reuse on-site.
- Composting (noting that this may not be suitable in all locations and will be subject to further committee discussion).
- Transporting waste to licensed green waste recycling centres (acknowledging associated costs, including ULEZ and staffing).

8. **Review and Oversight** This policy will be reviewed annually by the Open Spaces Committee or in response to significant incidents or public concern.

- Any updates must be approved by Full Council.