

Pruning Trees in neighbouring gardens



You have a Common Law Right to prune back branches that cross over your boundary subject to the following:

1. You have the responsibility of checking whether the trees are covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or are growing within a Conservation Area (CA). If they are you will need to obtain permission to carry out the work.
2. Deadwood is not covered by TPOs but it is possible to tell whether a branch was dead at the time of cutting so make sure it is dead before carrying out any work. Seek specialist advice if you are unsure.
3. You may not cut back beyond the boundary of your property. Trees will respond better if pruned back to a natural union or growth point, but this does not mean you can cut substantial additional material over the boundary.
4. Large cuts or removal of significant amounts of live material may make the tree unstable or prone to problems with decay or disease in the future. We suggest you consult an arboriculturist before pruning large branches – for example branches over 75mm (3”) diameter or a large number of smaller branches.
5. We would be grateful if you will dispose of the branches or leaves – please do not leave them on neighbouring or council land as this will constitute fly tipping. They can be put into a green bin or taken to a waste recycling centre.
6. If you are carrying out Common Law pruning this should be done from within the affected property. Any work done from adjoining land will require permission of the landowner and may mean using a suitably insured professional.
7. The City Council cannot contribute or pay any costs incurred while carrying out pruning of overhanging branches. This would be at your own expense.