

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

Decision Taken By: Leisure Services Manager (Outdoors)	Decision No: D260002OFF
Delegated Authority (under which decision taken): Authority delegated to the Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services under Part 3 of the Constitution and set out in the Scheme of Functions delegated to Officers.	
Decision Type:	Non-Key
Date of Decision:	21 January 2026

Decision(s) and Reason(s)
Bailey Bridge East Car Park, Aylesford
<p>(1) The full closure of Bailey Bridge East Car Park, Aylesford, between 9 and 10 February 2026 to enable essential Health & Safety works on large willow trees to be completed on privately owned land adjacent to the car park.</p> <p>(2) This work was identified and requested by the Council, and Officers have worked with the landowner to organise the works. Works will be carried out by a contractor employed and managed by the landowner, with relevant H&S and insurance documentation provided to the Council ahead of works commencing. This work has been signed off by the Council's Engineering Team.</p>
Reason: Essential tree works are required for Health & Safety reasons. The large mature trees have lost several limbs that are hung up within the tree canopies, which are within falling distance of the car park. The closure of this car park is necessary to ensure the safety of operatives and car park users, as machinery will be in use. Access to the car park is limited to one entrance, which is narrow and provides limited space during works.

Details of any Alternatives Considered:	
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A partial closure of the car park was considered, by allowing use of the grassed unpaved area of the car park.

Reason(s) why rejected:	<p>(1) The car park is small and narrow, and a large space is needed by the contractor to fell and process the timber once on the ground, to work safely. There is only one road entrance to this car park, with a tight turn from the entrance. No suitable alternatives were available.</p> <p>(2) The work area and turning circle needed for vehicles using towed machinery will require the full width of the car park. There is only one road entrance available, and no alternative convenient place to park and work. Full closure of the car park will ensure that the site can only be accessed by contractors and will provide space to carry out works efficiently and limit the duration of the works.</p>
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Conflicts of Interest/Dispensations Granted:	
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There were no conflicts of interest declared or dispensations granted by or to any Member who was consulted in respect of this decision.

Background Papers (if any):	
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None	
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Signed Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services:	R Styles
Date of publication:	28 January 2026

This decision will come into force immediately as 'call in' does not apply to operational non-key officer decisions.