

GRADE RUAN PARISH COUNCIL

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Policy on Highway verge maintenance by individuals - Adopted 8th July 2019

Overview

Grade Ruan Parish Council recognise the need for verges to be kept in a manner which is safe for users of the Highway, appropriate to the location within the parish, and ecologically and environmentally sensitive. The need for the policy has arisen through requests by residents to maintain/manage sections of verge adjacent to their property. This policy sets out the Parish Council's preferred approach to the maintenance of verges, by both individuals and authorities, and aims to provide clarity and consistency of management.

Position of the Council

The Council does not actively encourage residents to manage verges adjacent to their property, however it does recognise that, from time to time, parishioners may wish to 'manage' areas adjacent to their property for aesthetic reasons. In particular, where the authorities have yet to visit the verges in question, and the grass and vegetation growth is significant, the Council will not object to simple weeding, strimming of long grass, or minor cutting back of vegetation. The statutory purpose of the verges is to provide a clear line of sight for users of the public highway. The Council does not condone the planting of shrubs, trees, flowerbeds, large stones (whether painted white or not) or any other items on a verge without prior consent of the Council. Unauthorised planting may cause obstacles for the authorities whilst maintaining the verge and in the worst cases become a road safety hazard that needs to be removed by the authorities. The Council is clear that any management of verges cannot be used to support any claim of ownership by individuals, whether or not that land is deemed to be part of the public highway.