

Private Planting of Flowers on Grass Verges: Parish Council Policy

Background

Foxton Parish Council maintains and cuts the grass verges within the parish which it owns. The Parish Council also cuts the grass verges belonging to Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department and invoices them accordingly.

From time-to-time residents ask the Parish Council for permission to plant shrubs, bulbs and wildflowers on portions of verge. Generally, these verges are adjacent to the residents' properties. *For example: Cambridge County Council (Highways) has given permission to residents to plant wild flowers in the verge which is adjacent to their properties. The consequential agreement with the Parish Council is that the residents undertake the planting and general care and maintenance of the verge at no cost to the parish except for occasional grass cuts.*

This policy defines the process for applying for permission to plant on a County Council or Parish Council owned verge.

Draft Policy

1. Any resident of Foxton Parish may contact the Parish Council to enquire about planting the grass verge adjacent to her/his property.
2. The Parish Council will determine who owns the verge and contact County Council Highways if necessary to gain their permission in principal.
3. The applicant must draw up a plan of the verge area in which she/he wishes to plant and giving details of the work required.
4. The applicant will fully research and record on a plan all the underground services in the area to be planted.
5. The applicant will provide and mark on the plan full details of all plantings and their locations.
6. The applicant will pay all costs of the plantings. The Parish Council can make arrangements to cut the grass on an occasional basis if required.
7. The applicant is responsible for researching the availability of any public grant funding. The Parish Council will make the applications for such grants.

8. The Parish Council cannot commit funds to these projects from the Parish precept.

9. The Parish Council reserves the right to refuse any applications and to alter/restore to grass any verges at any time which fall into neglect due to lack of maintenance or a change of property ownership.

10. The R&A Working Party will carry out an annual inspection of all verges with permitted plantings. The Parish Council will agree any remedial works.

End of Policy

Approved 1 March 2021