

Great Somerford Parish Council

Guidance on Hedges, Fences, Trees & Ditches

Background

As residents, we value the rural environment of Great Somerford, the green spaces, the hedges and the trees. However much of the village is situated in a Conservation Area and, in order to preserve the character of the village, there are regulations concerning trees and hedges, particularly if they are close to the highway.

Guidance

Before carrying out any Tree or Hedge work, a planning application to Wiltshire Council is normally required and, as proposals are sometimes not acceptable or are at variance to the general appearance of the parish, the planning process ensures the Parish Council is invited to comment.

New planting should be of native species and due consideration given to the location in the village. When proposing a domestic hedge, maintenance, speed of growth and dimensions should be taken into account so that the mature hedge does not dominate the immediate area.

More detailed guidance can be found by searching for 'Trees and Hedges' on the Wiltshire Council Planning Portal

Regular trimming

Property owners are encouraged to keep their hedges regularly trimmed, and they should not be allowed to encroach onto the pavement and cause an obstruction – this can lead to complaints from members of the public and harsh cutting back of an overgrown hedge can permanently damage it.

Ditches, Drains and Responsibilities

To reduce the risk of flooding to roads and neighbouring properties, it is the landowner's responsibility to maintain ditches, drains and culverts on their land.

An effective drainage system is essential to keep the highway safe, but it requires regular management and maintenance to enable it to function and allow surface water to drain freely away.

Advice

Anyone considering a proposal affecting trees or hedges is welcome to contact the Parish Council and, where possible we will give advice or refer the enquiry to the Wiltshire Council.

S. Mansfield 4/3/20.