

WEST SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Fowey Parking & Planting Report as requested by Cllr Philpot

1. Resident Request

- 1.1 Cllr Trish Philpot has recently received a request from a household in Fowey for the reintroduction of a shrub bed. Residents reported that the area was originally a rose shrub bed which was removed and set to grass. This now allows for off road parking which often leaves broken ground and muddy tyre tracks in the Winter.
- 1.2 Residents have requested steps to inhibit parking such as a no parking sign or the reintroduction of a shrub bed.



- 1.3 Councillors will be aware that parking availability is an issue for many residential areas in West and it is not uncommon for grass verges to be used on a regular basis. Generally little action is undertaken to restrict access to verges.
- 1.4 Planting can be an effective barrier to parking. In Toothill, the volunteer reward grant was used to install two planters on the entrance to Conisborough which had historically been used for parking.

2. Policy Implications

- 2.1 Parish Council is not directly responsible for resident parking issues. The Parish Council is not the landowner nor the Highways Authority so it has limited powers.
- 2.2 The Parish Council has not agreed a single approach to requests for parking restrictions. The Parish Council does maintain public spaces and can, as a result, introduce grounds maintenance improvements.
- 2.3 Creating physical barriers for vehicles is likely also to create a barrier to the mowers. These types of areas could be replaced with hand strimming.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Generally grass cutting is a practical surface for the Parish Council. The team are already in neighbourhoods, cutting grass on a regular basis. Adding to or removing a grassed area, has very limited impact on the overall costs of the grass cutting operation as it is done currently. Shrub beds are tended to annually however we get requests all year round for overgrowth, brambles etc. The annual cut itself needs to be reviewed. The grassed area at Fowey is of a significant size. The introduction of shrubs would require ground work, acquisition/purchase of planting and possible some form of edging.
- 3.2 Single planters can provide an attractive addition to a neighbourhood area. Self watering planters cost upwards of £500 per planter plus costs for plants, compost, and labour (watering and planting). Planters can be moved to different locations and are generally robust and weather resistant.
- 3.3 Councillors will need to consider how they wish to respond to requests for parking restrictions. Consideration should be given to how requests would be prioritised and the financial implications of any solutions.
- 3.4 The Parish Council has limited flexibility in its current annual budget. It has allocated £2,000 for 'Open Spaces' which is currently unspent.

4. Recommendations:

- 4.1 Councillors note the information in the report and discuss the preferred response to planting requests.
- 4.2 That this Committee consider the request for Fowey.

Paula Harrison
Parish Manager

